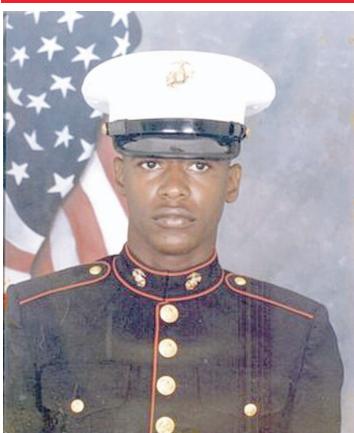


On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, October 25, 2010



In this undated photo provided by the US Marine Corps, Rohan Coombs is shown. When Coombs joined the U.S. Marine Corps, he never thought one day he would be locked up in an immigration detention center and facing deportation from the country he had vowed to defend.

(AP Photo/US Marine Corps)

Immigrant vets face deportation despite service

SAN FRANCISCO – When Rohan Coombs joined the U.S. Marine Corps, he never thought one day he would be locked up in an immigration detention center and facing deportation from the country he had vowed to defend.

Coombs, 43, born in Jamaica, immigrated to the United States legally as a child with his family. He signed up to serve his adopted nation for six years first in Japan and the Philippines, then in the Persian Gulf during the first war with Iraq.

Up to 8,000 non-citizens enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces every year and serve alongside American troops. As of May 2010, there were 16,966 non-citizens on active duty. The military does not allow illegal immigrants to enlist.

Continued on Page A3

	Price of a barrel of petroleum
	US\$ 81.69
	↑ 1.13

“Barbados has lost a leader”

Prime Minister of Barbados dies

The United States on Saturday offered condolences to the Caribbean island nation of Barbados after the death of prime minister David Thompson, who passed away after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

“On behalf of President (Barack) Obama and the people of the United States, I offer my deepest condolences to the people of Barbados on the passing of Prime Minister David Thompson,” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said.

“Barbados has lost a leader and the nations of the Americas have lost a friend and valued partner,” Clinton said in a statement.

“Prime Minister Thompson was a champion for democracy and justice in the Caribbean and an advocate for wider prosperity and opportunity throughout the region.”

She added that the country’s “strong democratic institutions... will ensure a smooth transition of power, and I am confident that under its new leadership, Barbados’ strong friendship with the United States will continue.”

Thompson, 48, held office since January 2008. He was the sixth prime minister of the country which declared its independence from Britain in 1966.



His personal doctor announced in mid-September that Thompson had cancer of the pancreas, the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation said. He is survived by his mother, father, wife and three children.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart was sworn into office on Saturday, shortly after Thompson’s death. □

War by the numbers



8 enemy deaths, 46 shootings

An Afghan policeman attached with US soldiers from 2nd PLT Diablos 552nd Military Police Company, holds his machine gun during a patrol outskirts of Kandahar City, Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press
Page A12



Barbados's Former Prime Minister David Thompson.

Barbados has been plunged into mourning with the death of Prime Minister David Thompson. He died on Saturday morning at 2.10. According to reports, he died at his home in Mapps, St Philip with his family by his side.

Thompson served as Prime Minister of Barbados from January 2008 when the Democratic Labour Party won the government. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September.

It was during May that Thompson, accompanied by his personal physician Dr Richard Ishmael, announced to Barbadians that he was not well and was seeking medical attention. On September 30

After being diagnosed with cancer in September

Prime Minister of Barbados (48) passes away

Thompson gave his last address to the nation, where he also announced a Cabinet reshuffle. Thompson, 48, leaves to mourn his wife Mara and three daughters. Freundel Stuart is Barbados' new Prime Minister. He was sworn in at Government House earlier yesterday after the passing of former leader David Thompson.

Adriel Brathwaite, the new Attorney General, was also sworn in yesterday.

The full Cabinet was to be sworn in at 3 yesterday afternoon New Leader of the Opposition Owen Arthur, spoke glowingly about the deceased Prime Minister in a press conference held seven hours after Thompson passed away at his private residence in St Philip early yesterday.

"Prime Minister Thompson was one of the most remarkable Barbadians of his generation," Arthur told reporters at the headquarters of the Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Buildings.

"His death, at the height of his intellectual and oratorical skills and powers, unfortunately means that we will never truly get to know the full extent

of his possible contribution to the development and transformation of the Barbadian economy," Arthur said.

"He was one of the most remarkable Barbadians of his generation," Arthur said, adding that he pursued his work with "what can only be described as a distinctive vibrancy, passion and panache which truly set him apart."

"As a result, his memory will never wither and can never grow old, but will live on in the minds and hearts of Barbadians forever," Arthur added.

"While we served on opposite sides I never for a moment entertained any doubts of the sincerity and the completeness of his commitment to the advancement of the interests of the people of Barbados," Arthur said. And in expressing sympathy to the family of the deceased, he wished Thompson "peace and rest."

"I trust that the trumpets will sound for him on the other side," Arthur added. As a nation mourned, a similar picture of despair and grief gripped those in Thompson's stomping ground of St John.

Thompson, 48, ruled St John politically since he was 25 and as news spread of his passing early yesterday, almost all and sundry from Bath to Colleton to Martins Bay to Gall Hill, cut a forlorn and crestfallen look.

The boys in Colleton shouted "The Boss is Gone," a woman in Bath, hailed him as a father and a brother, a group of people cried at a bus stop in Gall Hill, an elderly man in Coach Hill, simply said that Thompson would be irreplaceable.

When the Nation team visited the sleepy eastern rural parish just after the crack of dawn, many seemed so crushed by Thompson's passing, they were speechless.

The glum-faced expressions said it all. Donna Batson of Bath Land, couldn't hold back the tears or her feelings. "I have lost my father, my friend, my brother. He was everything to us. This hurts."

"When my mother died he was one of the first people that visited the family. It is so sad. Thompson was a top man," she said.

The Estwick family of Colleton were very close to

the Thompsons, and every member of the household was moved to tears, none more so than 28-year-old Alwyn, his barber before he became Prime Minister.

"My father gone. I can't believe he is gone. A good man is gone. "This morning is one of the worst days of my life. He was a father figure. I loved this man," said a sobbing Alwyn.

Thompson's housekeeper for the last two decades, Monica Parsons broke down after comforting family and friends at Thompson's residence in Mapps, St Philip.

She was at home when Thompson's wife, Mara, phoned to give her the news.

Two others that were very close to him, were overcome with grief. His long-standing constituency aide, Kathlene Padmore, was teary-eyed and his driver, Kelvin 'Dopey' Howell, cried himself to sleep. In Carters, St John, big John Haynes, one of Thompson's staunchest supporters, took it hard. "This lick me up. It's devastating. Although I knew what the situation was, I am still in shock," he said. □

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In this Sept. 29, 2010 photograph, a U.S. Marine with the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines' Echo Company sleeps under an open mosquito net on a cot at the joint Afghan-American patrol base in the district of Marjah in southern Afghanistan. Since arriving in mid-July, troops from the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines' Echo Company have spread out across 13 small, spartan outposts in northern Marjah, a vast patch of fields and ancient hardened mud homes without running water or electricity.

(AP Photo/Todd Pitman)

IMMIGRANT DEPORTATION

Continued from Front Page

If non-citizens die while serving, they are given citizenship and a military funeral. If they live and get in trouble with the law, as Coombs did, they can get caught in the net of a 1996 immigration law that greatly expanded the list of crimes for which non-citizens can be deported.

"As far as I was concerned, I was a citizen," said Coombs, whose soft-spoken, introspective nature contrast with his physical presence. Coombs stands 6 foot 5 and weighs more than 260 pounds a gentle giant, according to his fiancee, Robyn Sword.

Now advocates of non-citizen servicemen and women are trying to change that. Attorneys are taking cases like Coombs' to court, arguing that an immigrant who serves in the Armed Forces should be considered a U.S. national and protected from deportation.

"These are people who served us whether they are model human beings or not," said Coombs' attorney, Craig Shagin of Harrisburg, Pa.

"They served in our uniforms, in our wars. If they were POWs, they'd be considered American prisoners."

Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, is looking into potential changes to the law so immigrants who serve in the military can avoid deportation. "You come back from Iraq or Afghanistan today, you have put yourself on the line for this country," said Filner. "An incredible number of kids come back with an injury or illness that puts them in trouble with the law. To simply have these people deported is not a good way to thank them for their service."

Advocates estimate that thousands of veterans have been deported or are in detention. Government officials say they have no tally but plan to begin tracking the numbers. The push comes as criminal courts are increasingly listening to arguments for leniency for veterans. So-called veterans courts, which give them specialized treatment, now number more than 30, with a dozen more planned. Next

month, new U.S. Sentencing Commission rules will make it possible for federal judges to consider a criminal defendant's military service and mental and emotional condition to issue a lesser prison sentence. The rules, however, would not apply to immigration judges.

Most immigrants serve with distinction. The Center for Naval Analyses, a federally funded research and development center for the Navy and the Marine Corps, found that non-citizens are far more likely to complete their enlistment obligations successfully than their U.S.-born counterparts.

Coombs was one who did not make the grade. He spent 10 months in the Persian Gulf and lost friends to combat, he said. After the war, he felt depressed and anxious. His family was far away in New York, and he said "whining" to fellow Marines didn't seem an option.

Instead, he got involved with drugs, and he got caught.

In 1992, he was court-martialed for possession of cocaine and marijuana with the intent to distribute, and was given 18 months of confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

He continued to struggle with drugs.

"Things would be going well, then something would happen," he said.

He got married, and that helped. When his wife died in 2001 of diabetes-related complications, he started smoking marijuana again.

In 2008, he was busted for selling marijuana to an undercover officer while working as a bouncer in an Orange County bar. He spent eight months in state prison.

"I don't want to make excuses. I made mistakes. I thought I knew the consequences I served my time," he said in a telephone interview.

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement found that his criminal convictions made him eligible for deportation, and he was turned over to ICE after serving his sentence. He has been held in a San Diego immigration detention center for 22 months and is appealing to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court. Coombs was stunned to realize he could be forced to leave the country for his crimes. "This is the only life I've known," he said. "The only time I left this country was when I was deployed overseas. This is

my home." On the other side of the country, Dardar Paye is appealing his deportation case to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Paye came to the U.S. from war torn Liberia as a 13-year-old. He joined the Army in 1998, serving in Kuwait as part of Operation Desert Fox and then in a NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. He returned to New Jersey, where his family lives, to spend another year and a half with the Army National Guard. □

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Employers looking at health insurance options



WASHINGTON — The new health care law wasn't supposed to undercut employer plans that have provided most people in the U.S. with coverage for generations.

But last week a leading manufacturer told workers their costs will jump partly because of the law. Also, a Democratic governor laid out a scheme for employers to get out of health care by shifting workers into taxpayer-subsidized insurance markets that open in 2014.

While it's too early to proclaim the demise of job-based coverage, corporate number crunchers are looking at options that could lead to major changes.

"The economics of dropping

existing coverage is about to become very attractive to many employers, both public and private," said Gov. Phil Bredesen, D-Tenn.

That's just not going to happen, White House officials say.

"The absolute certainty about the Affordable Care Act is that for many, many employers who cover millions of people, it increases the incentives for them to offer coverage," said Jason Furman, an economic adviser to President Barack Obama.

Yet at least one major employer has shifted a greater share of plan costs to workers, and others are weighing the pros and cons of eventually forcing employees to strike out on their own.

"I don't think you are going to hear anybody publicly say 'We've made a decision to drop insurance,'" said Paul Keckley, executive director of the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. "What we are hearing in our meetings is, 'We don't want to be the first one to drop benefits, but we would be the fast second.' We are hearing that a lot." Deloitte is a major accounting and consulting firm.

"My conclusion on all of this is that it is a huge roll of the dice," said James Klein, president of the American Benefits Council, which represents big company benefits administrators. "It could work out well and build on the employer-based system, or it could begin to dismantle the employer-based system." Employer health benefits have been a middle-class mainstay since World War II, when companies were encouraged to offer health insurance instead of pay raises. About 150 million workers and family members are now covered.

When lawmakers debated the legislation, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected it would only have minimal impact on employer plans. About 3 million fewer people would be covered through the job, but they'd be able to get insurance elsewhere. Two provisions in the new law are leading companies to look at their plans in a different light.

One is a hefty tax on high-

cost health insurance aimed at the most generous coverage. Although the "Cadillac tax" doesn't hit until 2018, companies may have to disclose their exposure to investors well before that. A Boeing spokeswoman said concerns about the tax were partly behind a 50 percent increase in insurance deductibles the company just announced.

The tax is 40 percent of the value of a plan above \$10,200 for individual coverage and \$27,500 for a family plan. Family coverage now averages about \$13,800.

White House adviser Furman said blaming a cost increase next year on a tax that won't take effect for eight years "stretches credibility very far past the breaking point."

Bigger questions loom over the new insurance markets that will be set up under the law. They're called exchanges, and every state will have one in a few years. Consumers will be able to shop for coverage among a range of plans in the exchange, with a guarantee they can't be turned down because of an existing medical problem. To help make premiums affordable, the law provides tax credits for households making up to four times the federal poverty level, about \$88,000 for a family of four.

Tennessee Gov. Bredesen said last week that employers could save big money by dropping their health plans and sending workers to buy coverage in the exchange. They'd face a fine of \$2,000 per worker, but that's still way less than the cost of providing health insurance. Employers could even afford to give workers a raise and still come out ahead, Bredesen wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece.

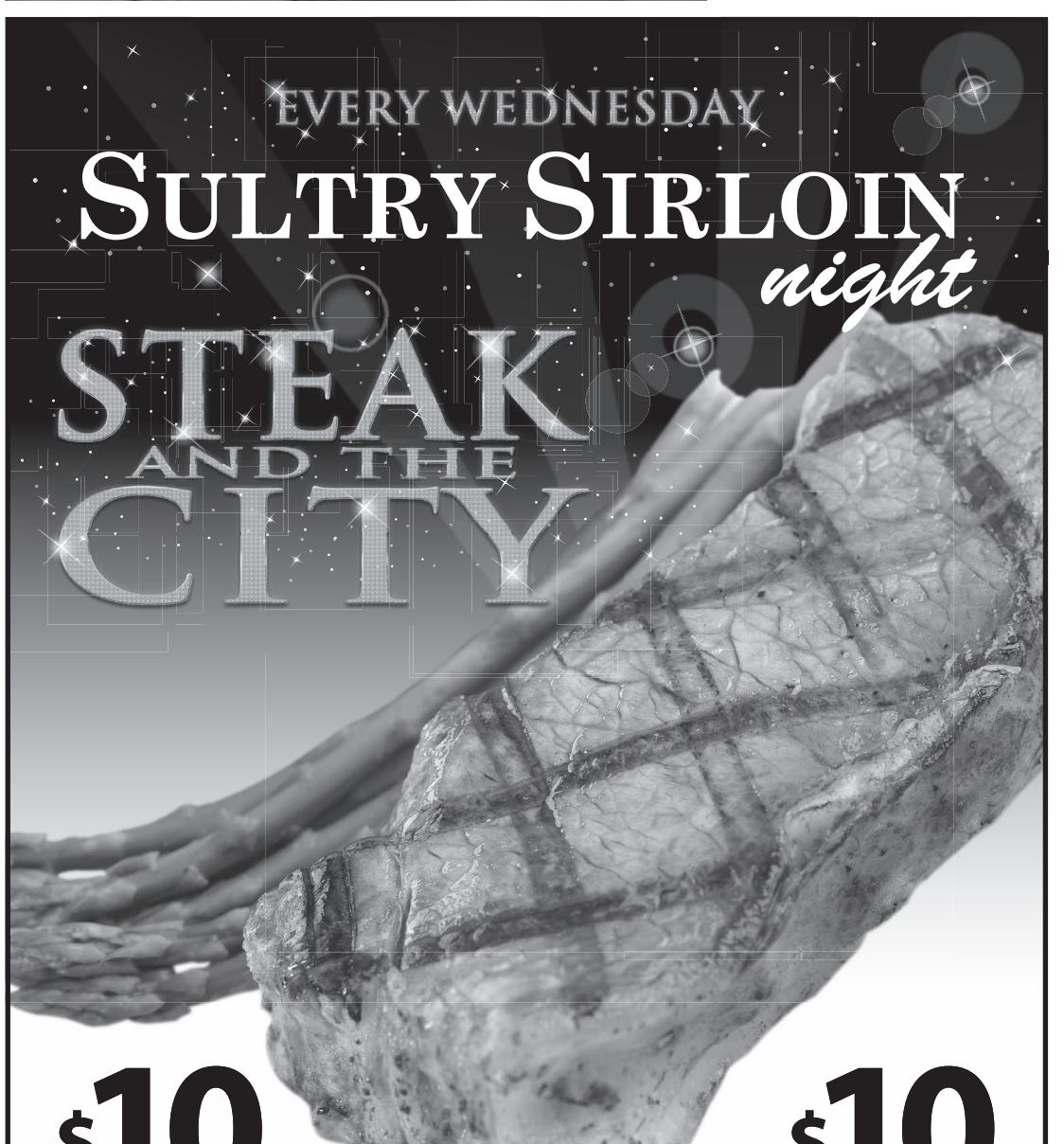
Employers are actively looking at that. "I don't know if the intent was to find an exit strategy for providing benefits, but the bill as written provides the mechanism," said Deloitte's Keckley, the consultant.

A spokeswoman for the senators who wrote that part of the law says she's confident that when companies do the math, they'll decide to keep offering coverage. □

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Questions about accuser surround sex slave case

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The allegations in the indictment were shocking: A young woman had been held captive for years as the sex slave of a Missouri couple. She had been locked in a cage and subjected to electrical shocks. Parts of her body had been nailed to wooden planks. When announcing charges last month, U.S. Attorney Beth Phillips called the case one of “the most horrific ever prosecuted in this district.” Authorities said the woman was a mentally deficient runaway who was recruited by an older man at the age of 16 to live in his trailer. The situation came to light in early 2009, after the woman, then 23, landed in a hospital following what prosecutors said was a torture session.

But as more details have emerged, more questions have arisen about the accuser, including her involvement in violent sex practices, her posing for a pornographic magazine and her work as a strip-club dancer. Supporters of the defendant are speaking out, too, saying many of the acts described in the indictment are practiced every day between consenting adults.

Ed Bagley, 43, faces 11 federal charges, including conspiracy, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, and forced labor trafficking. Four other men also are charged with various crimes.

A graphic 21-page federal indictment describes medieval-like sexual devices being used on the woman at

Bagley’s mobile home about six miles outside Lebanon, in southwest Missouri. Accusations of waterboarding, suffocation and beatings are mentioned throughout.

Bagley’s wife, Marilyn, said she and her husband knew the girl because she had dated their son. That relationship had ended, Bagley’s wife said, but the girl wanted to come live with the couple when relations with her adoptive parents soured. She said the girl moved in when she was 17, not 16, and never had sex with her husband until after she turned 18.

“She was not a runaway,” Marilyn Bagley said. “We picked her up from her adopted dad and stepmom. They were right there and everything.”

Marilyn Bagley said prosecutors have told her she also will be charged if she doesn’t agree to testify against her husband. But she said she will not take the stand against him because she believes the two did nothing wrong.

Prosecutors said Ed Bagley posted videos and other images on the Internet showing the young woman engaged in sexual activities. He allegedly described her as his sex slave and advertised that she would perform sex acts and submit to torture for other people during encounters online or in person. Bagley is accused of taking payments of cash, cigarettes, computer hard drives, even meat, to let other men come to his home and torture her.

Bagley and other defendants are also charged with transporting the woman to

California in 2006 and 2007 for prostitution. She appeared on the cover of the July 2007 issue of Taboo, a publication owned by Larry Flynt’s Hustler Magazine Group, and was the subject of a story and multipage photo spread inside. Prosecutors said Ed Bagley also forced the girl to work as an exotic dancer and threatened to punish her if she was not a top earner at the clubs where she stripped.

But another dancer at the same Missouri strip club said the woman seemed to enjoy the attention she got when she danced, often showing off the issue of Taboo magazine that featured her on the cover.

“This girl was spoiled,” said Katie Smothers, who said she spent time at Bagley’s trailer when she needed a place to stay but never participated in bondage activities.

“She would take customers to show them her magazine, and she had a bucket of photos at the bar. She bragged about it.” Susan Dill, Bagley’s Kansas City-based attorney, told reporters recently that the indictment tells only one side of the story. She said the defense will present evidence that the woman practiced BDSM bondage, dominance, sadism and masochism by choice.

Dill declined to go into detail, and attorneys for the other defendants turned down requests for comment.

The U.S. attorney’s office in Kansas City also declined repeated requests to comment, saying the indictment speaks for itself.



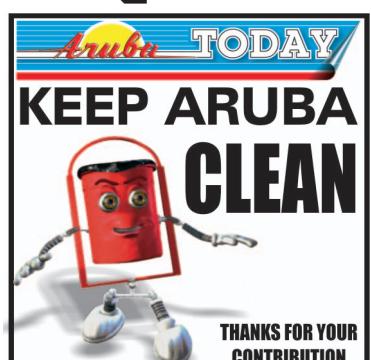
Marilyn Bagley, who for years shared a bed with her husband and the woman, told The Associated Press the woman often left the Bagleys’ home to go into the community.

She believes the woman’s family coerced her to go to police after she was taken to a hospital suffering from cardiac arrest, which Bagley claims she suffered while getting ready for work not during a torture session.

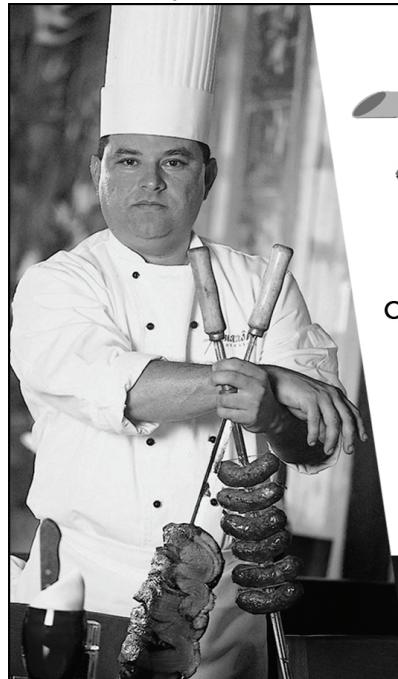
“She started seizing, and when she was done, she stopped breathing. Ed gave her CPR. I was on the phone to 911. We were freaking out. We didn’t know what to do,” she said.

Dr. Keely Kolmes, a San Francisco-based psychologist who sees patients who practice BDSM, said that many of the acts listed in the indictment can be part of consensual activities. But others might indicate Bagley was an abuser, such as allegations that he shot animals the woman cared about to prove he could kill her and that he refused to stop immediately when the woman used a “safe word.”

“Consensual BDSM does not involve holding minors



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ND vote could ban big game hunting on fenced land



11/07/07 9:43 PM

LISBON, N.D. — Butch and Deb Dick's lifelong dream was to open a big game hunting preserve and after years of

preparation, they expected to welcome the first customers to their southeastern North Dakota ranch this month.



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Voters will decide next month whether to shut them down.

Measure No. 2 on the Nov. 2 general election ballot seeks to abolish fenced preserves where people pay to shoot big game such as deer and elk. Supporters of the measure say the practice is unethical because the animals can't escape. Opponents say it's free enterprise.

There are thousands of big game breeding operations in the United States. Although it's not clear how many offer hunting, there's no federal law banning fenced hunting and a majority of states allow it.

"I think it comes down to property rights," Butch Dick, 34, said quietly, gazing from a ridge that overlooks his wooded and hilly Dragon Creek Ranch in the surprisingly rugged Sheyenne River Valley 8 miles west of Lisbon. Most of eastern North Dakota is flat farmland.

About a dozen of the state's more than 100 game preserves offer hunting for a fee. The cost of a hunt depends on the size of the animal, but some packages can run more than \$10,000. The Dicks advertise their business as a place where "myth and fantasy becomes reality." They have plans to build a lodge for clients who for now will stay in a nearby bed and breakfast. They would like to specialize in events for disabled hunters and hold a turn-of-the-century hunt for muzzleloaders.

If the measure passes, "I guess it will be one large breeding farm," Deb Dick, 35, said with

a sigh.

The ballot measure's promoter, Roger Kaseman of Linton, said it's not sporting to hunt animals in areas he claims can be as small as 400 acres.

The average size of the hunting preserves is difficult to gauge. The state Board of Animal Health, the key regulator, does not separate hunting and non-hunting farms in its reporting. But owners claim the preserves are big enough to provide an authentic hunting experience, and one in the North Dakota Badlands said his property covers 2,000 acres.

Butch Dick said he had to install 4 miles of fence to enclose his hunting land.

The issue of whether to bar fenced hunting isn't new.

A bill to outlaw fenced hunting preserves was introduced in the 2007 Legislature by a lone sponsor, state Sen. Tim Matheron, D-Fargo. He said other lawmakers took their names off the bill because they were pressured by "outside interests" and some warned him he should be worried about his safety, although he received no direct threats.

"When it got right down to the day of introducing the bill, everybody was gone except me," Matheron said.

The bill was trounced by a vote of 44-3. Kaseman, 64, who chairs a group called North Dakota Hunters for Fair Chase, believes most citizens didn't know about fenced hunting when the issue came up in the Legislature. He thinks they are now ready to voice their opposition.

The opposing voice, Shawn Schafer, 43, a white-tailed deer farmer near Turtle Lake and spokesman for Citizens to Protect North Dakota's Property Rights, said he's looking for a blowout victory to settle the debate one last time.

"I just wonder how much we're going to win by," Schafer said. "I want to send a big strong message that this is it, it's over, leave us alone."

No polls are available on the measure, but a 2007 University of North Dakota survey showed 75 percent of the 600 people polled would vote in favor of a ban. The random telephone survey of North Dakota residents over 18 had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Most of the preserves' customers come from other states, where there are fewer places to hunt and it's difficult to obtain licenses for the biggest of big game. Some hunters want the trophy on the wall, but most are interested in the hunting experience, said Schafer, who hunts at fenced ranches in other states.

Kaseman questions that experience.

"The hunt is over the moment the animal is born," he said.

Marv Hanson, a Grand Forks hunter, said most of his outdoors companions view fenced hunting as a matter of personal choice. "It's not something that I necessarily care to do," Hanson said, "but I don't have any problem with other people doing it, let's put it that way." □

LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Miracle makes Port of Call to Aruba

Aruba Celebrates the return of Carnival Cruise Lines



ORANJESTAD—The arrival of the cruise ship Miracle from the Carnival Cruise Lines made her visit to Aruba and will be the first in a series of visits. The cruise ship entered the harbor of Oranjestad on Friday around noon after a three-year absence. The ship hadn't visited Curaçao for six years. Premier Mike Eman and the Minister of Tourism, Labor & Transport Otmar Oduber of government party AVP were at the harbor this morning to meet with a top representative of the cruise company, Captain Domenico Tringale, and the marketing manager of the company

Jennifer de la Cruz.

Carnival will visit the island twice a month up to the year 2012. The Miracle offers accommodation to 2124 passengers and 934 crewmembers.

The ship will be moored at the mega pier from eight o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the afternoon and subsequently continue its course in the direction of Aruba. The cruise ship will then head for home in the direction of Port Everglades Harbor in Fort Lauderdale. The deal with Carnival was concluded with Aruba because one realized the mutual



advantages. "One aims at advantages for both parties through cooperation and concentration of forces. The indefatigable input in drawing more tourist ships to our islands is paying off by our presence in the cruise world and our personal contacts with the managements" according to CPA. □





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Not without conservation

Bird watching on Aruba continues to improve



Photo by Albert Peterson on October 23, 2010 - "Setting up for the catch. This Tricolored Heron is a master fisherman. It uses different strategies and techniques, pending on factors of the environment. Swift, accurate and deadly..."

In English : Tricolored Heron, Papiamento : Garsa barica blanco, Dutch : Witbuikreiger, Scientific : Egretta tricolor.

ORANJESTAD Recently, Aruba Birdlife Conservation has established itself as a foundation and intends to play in conserving Aruba's nature in general and more specifically the island's wild birds.

The foundation has been receiving regular signals from the Aruban community that the numbers of birds on the island are rapidly declining.

The main causes are the huge increase in construction projects during the past few years, leading increased fragmentation of critical habitat and secondly, the presence of the invasive Boa constrictor.

The foundation also voiced its serious concerns about Aruba's arrears in ratifying and implementing international nature treaties.

Unfortunately, at the local level insufficient attention is given to nature. For example, Aruba's nature protection legislation is not being implemented. The foundation intends to focus on ensuring enforcement of this legislation to prevent further structural damage to Aruba's nature.

Greg Peterson, chairman of Aruba Birdlife Conservation, recently requested the Governor's special attention for the Shoco.

This year alone four traditional breeding territories of Aruba's Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularia arubensis – a local subspecies – were completely destroyed. One of the photos presented to the Governor of the Shoco is a picture of an



Photo by Albert Peterson on October 23, 2010 – "Just like the photographer this Black-crowned Night Heron enjoys the rays of Aruba's rising sun: Chilling...."

In English : Black-crowned Night Heron, Papiamento : Krabechi bachi preto, Dutch : Kwak, Scientific : Nycticorax nycticorax.



Photo by Greg Peterson on October 24, 2010 – "Aruba's early morning sunshine is just superb when the Shoco's line up for their photo-shoot. Once the sun passes about 8:15 a.m., the colors of the bird change along. You can see the early sunrise reflected in their eyes."

In English : Burrowing Owl, Papiamento : Shoco, Dutch : Holenuil, Scientific : Athene cunicularia arubensis.



Photo by Greg Peterson on October 23, 2010 – "Although this bird is categorized as a common resident breeder in Aruba, the numbers witnessed of this migratory bird are very encouraging. Sometimes they flock together in a sort of pack while hunting for tiny fish. The abundance of rain experienced this year in Aruba increases the availability of food for these visitors which might help prolong their stay in our little paradise!"

In English : Snowy Egret, Papiamento : Garsa blanco chikito, Dutch : Amerikaanse Kleine Zilverreiger, Scientific : Egretta thula.

owl whose breeding ground has recently been destroyed.

The Governor is known for his love for Aruba's nature

and informed Aruba Birdlife Conservation that they could count on his support. □

PM's of Countries St. Maarten and Curacao meet



PHILIPSBURG - The 1st and the 1st Prime Minister of Country St. Maarten, The Honorable Mrs. Sarah Wescot-Williams

held talk at the Holland House

Hotel last week.

No details were released about the content of the discussions



between the two new Prime Ministers in the Dutch Kingdom.

Although St. Maarten and Curacao are now both Countries within the Dutch Kingdom, 50 years of co-existence have left many family and business

relationships that will go on despite the constitutional changes.

It is expected that both Countries will seek to find ways to support the relationships of its people as they go about constructing the future for both Countries. □

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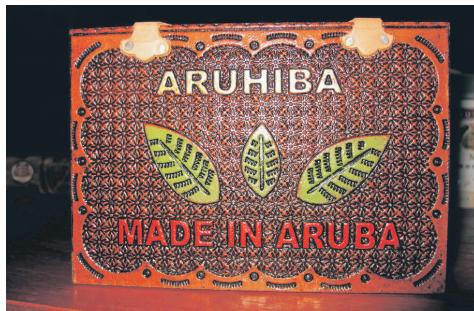
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always

had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five



cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm . Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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Read ARUBA TODAY every day

Tom and Yvonne van Bladel experience the best of the island

Frequent travelers keep coming back to Aruba and the ASC



ORANJESTAD - Tom and Yvonne van Bladel's extended stays in Aruba have been filled with times spent windsurfing, snorkeling as well as simply luxuriating poolside at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club (ASC). Seasoned travelers, the pair still find returning to Aruba, a month at a time, a favored option even among a world of choices currently being offered through the Marriott Vacation Club (MVC). The recent introduction of MVC's new Destinations points-based program, which provides for more flexible options in the length of stay, type of accommodation and the choice of the destination itself, has made for even more memorable, convenient as well as money-saving vacations for the Van Bladels. "Aruba has always been good to us, so if we couldn't easily exchange for other destinations, we are happy to return to Aruba, but the

new points-based program is attractive for its flexibility and the different possibilities it affords," explains Tom. "In the end, not only does it assure us benefits in locations and levels of accommodations, it also saves us money in allowing for greater availability and for longer time periods, and in taking advantage of airfare deals without having a set check-in and check-out day." For Tom and Yvonne, the Marriott's new Destinations Program perfectly fits their lifestyle. Both are enjoying retirement with extended travel as well as the opportunity to share the benefits of vacation ownership with their kids. "We've already taken two of the oldest grandkids to Branson, Missouri, and had a great time. A family trip to Aruba is definitely on the agenda for the future," comments Yvonne.

Yvonne and Tom are fans of the MVC product and own from both Hawaii and Aruba.

Both destinations are in high demand and offer extremely favorable exchanges. But the annual vacation in Aruba always proves a treasured time. With the Destinations Program, the Van Bladels were able to enjoy the entire month of their recent vacation in Aruba without having to change rooms, mid-stay. From the comforts of their home base of a luxurious suite in the Spyglass Tower of the Surf Club, they freely explored the island, taking frequent trips to their favorite snorkeling spot at Mangel Halto.

"It's easy to go anywhere, or simply to take better advantage of our Aruba stay," comments Tom. "With all the options, we enjoy discovering all the different possibilities we have open to us, planning our vacations and getting the maximum benefit from it."

The level of satisfaction the couple has found with the new program has been so great, they were recent guests at a sales meeting among Aruba's MVC associates. They shared easy camaraderie with many of the associates with whom they have become friends over the years, while they explained what they found most attractive about the Destinations points-based program and how it has enhanced their vacation experience. "We had a great advisor, and are extremely pleased with what we can



do with our vacation time now," states Yvonne. "We are now planning a longer trip to Australia and Puket, Thailand, but will always return to Aruba. We started out with two weeks in Aruba and felt we could see ourselves with four, and now I can see myself here for six weeks.... For as long as Tom can windsurf, we'll be coming back to Aruba," she adds with a laugh. Since its inception in 1984, Marriott Vacation Club has continued to redefine the vacation ownership experience. For more information on MVC's travel experiences, call Tel: 520-6880 to schedule a personal appointment. □



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ORANJESTAD – A perfectly organized song festival entertained the associates of La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club on Saturday night.

Organized in great detail by the Social Committee the festival was the 9th annual edition of the event, emceed by radio personality Ruben Garcia.

Assistant General Manager Jessica Franken introduced the Sparkling Talents of the resort accompanied by the Cassinger Sweet Band, and declared the beginning of the song fest.

Five professional jury members, Farita Luidens, Papito Raphael, Harlan Verner, John Francis Jacobs & Maybelline Arends assisted in selecting the winners from among 18 participants, who put on brilliant performances. The evening was filled with excellent music, raffles and door prizes and included one big surprise, prepared by Executive Committee members, Managers & Supervisors supported by their children, who presenting the annual Management Show, starring the unforgettable This Time for Africa, by Shakira and the Waka Waka group.

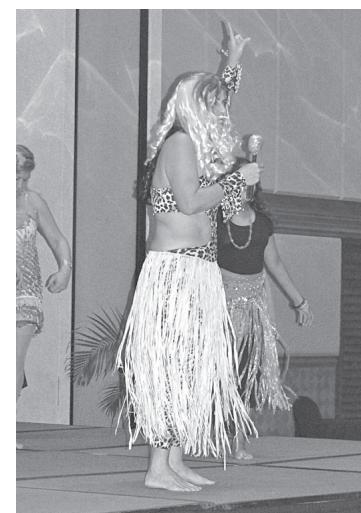
Resort Carnival Queen Alexandra Werleman, contributed nicely to the evening by crowning the most popular singer, other contributions included We Are the World with the Sparkling Stars, at the beginning the evening's second half.

The terrific show would not be possible without terrific sponsors, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa, Westin Aruba Resort, Digicel, and La Cabana Beach & Racquet



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Fran Mosconi for selling the most tickets!! □



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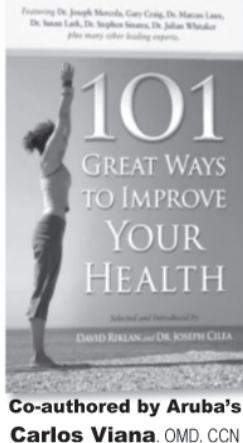
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, OMD, CCN

8 enemy deaths, 46 shootings: War by the numbers

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press Writer

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)

— In the first two months of a seven-month tour, U.S. Marine Cpl. Chuck Martin has been in 16 firefights.

He has done laundry twice, mailed five letters and received two. He has spent 378 hours on post and 256 hours on patrol. He has crossed 140 miles of thorny bomb-laced farmland and waist-high trenches of water on foot.

Along the way, he has ripped eight pairs of pants, ruined two pairs of boots, and downed 1,350 half-liter bottles of water. His platoon has killed at least eight militants in battle and nine farm animals in crossfire. The rugged outposts he has lived in have been shot at 46 times.

"Tiring would be the best word to describe it," the lanky 24-year-old said, summarizing his time in the insurgent-plagued southern Afghan district of Marjah so far. "There's no downtime. It's a constant gruel."

Martin's list, stored on spreadsheet on his laptop, offers a snapshot of American military life in this rural battle zone, where a new generation of young troops is growing up thousands of miles from home.

Since arriving in mid-July, troops from the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines' Echo Company have spread out across 13 small, spartan outposts in northern Marjah, a vast patch of fields and ancient hardened mud homes without running water or electricity that one company commander likened to "200 B.C."

At one outpost called Inchon, a droning generator provides power for laptops loaded

with movies and iPods, and just two lights: one for the Americans, the other for their Afghan counterparts. Troops have knitted together several shaky chairs from the metal fencing of discarded Hesco barriers.

At many bases, Marines sleep outside on cots inside sausage-shaped mosquito nets. There are no toilets, just "wag" bags, no showers — just pouches you can fill up with water warmed by the afternoon sun. Fleas are such a problem, many Marines have taken to wearing flea collars made for cats or dogs around their wrists and belts.

"It's definitely a culture shock," Lance Cpl. Benjamin Long, 21, said of life for incoming troops. "Some people come here, and they think we're living like cavemen."

For Sgt. Jeffrey Benson, the hardest part is being away from his wife and 2-year-old son. "Every time I call home, I feel like I'm missing something, missing another milestone," said Benson, a 34-year-old squad leader. On the front, Benson said, his biggest fear is of making a decision that will lead to one of his Marines getting hurt. He said he worries about varying routes and patrol patterns to avoid insurgent attacks.

"I'm constantly double-checking things," he said. "Marines want to get into gunfights. But it's the small details — running into an ambush or running over an IED (bomb) — that I worry about most."

The dangers of Marjah became apparent shortly after the Marines touched down. On one early patrol, six of them were wounded when



U.S. soldiers from 2nd PLT Diablos 552nd Military Police Company, patrol outskirts of Kandahar City, Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

guerrillas sprayed machine gun fire down a canal they were moving through.

The first time Benson led troops outside the wire, a Taliban fighter set off a fragmentation charge that blew up an Afghan soldier and wounded his radio operator. A few minutes earlier, he had been squatting on a knee in the same spot as his squad passed by. There have been many more close calls, including one Marine who walked into a trip wire across a canal that did not go off. Another survived a burst of gunfire where a bullet pierced his radio and then the Camelbak hydration pack strapped to his back, before finally stopping at his armored plate.

Lance Cpl. Patrick Cassidy remembers bullet rounds kicking up dust just six inches from his head during a morning firefight, after he had hit the ground to take cover at the start of an ambush.

"Some days it sucks, but I can't complain," said the 23-year-old, after lugger around a mortar tube for hours on a patrol that thankfully turned out quiet. "I signed up for it. I knew what I was getting into."

At one patrol base, a dinnertime conversation turned to this: is it better to be blown up or shot?

The two American Marine battalions deployed in Marjah since this summer have lost 21 men so far, according to a Facebook page that tracks casualties.

Lance Cpl. Damon George, 21, remembers two of them in particular. As he walked away seconds after a military memorial service for a fallen friend, he was told by his commanding officer that another comrade had been killed.

Despite the danger, George, a driver, said it was crucial to ferry supplies to the troops. "Even if it's Pop Tarts or Rip-

its ... or mail ... It's a morale factor."

Lance Cpl. Matthew Gallant, 21, was in a convoy that hit two roadside bombs in 24 hours, one of which was the biggest blast his unit has seen. That explosion broke his ankle, ripped the driver's leg apart, and severely wounded his truck's gunner, who was hurled into the road.

"It's not fun," Gallant said of driving on Marjah's roads. "It's waiting to get blown up again for the most part."

Marjah has no paved roads and 90 percent of U.S. military operations are on foot.

Troops routinely patrol weighed down with up to 90 pounds of gear — armored jackets, rifles — traversing a harsh terrain of water-filled trenches. The canal system was built by American aid money a half-century ago; today both insurgents and coalition forces use them as cover to avoid or stage attacks. □

Pakistan resists U.S. push to expand terror fight

ASIF SHAHZAD

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's foreign minister said Sunday that his country will deal with a key Taliban sanctuary along the Afghan border on its own timeline despite increasing U.S. pressure to move swiftly to help turn around the war in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke after returning from Washington for the latest round of high-level strategic talks with the Obama administration. His comments indicated a new \$2 billion military aid package offered by the U.S. did little change Pakistan's strategic calculus.

"We have our own priorities. We have our own sense of timing," said Qureshi when asked by reporters about U.S. pressure to launch an offensive against Taliban militants in the North Waziristan tribal area who regularly attack foreign troops in Afghanistan.

The U.S. believes an operation in North Waziristan is key to success in the Afghan war because the area serves as the main base for the Haqqani network — a militant group that military officials have said poses the greatest threat to troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has resisted taking action. Analysts say the country is reluctant to target militants it has historical ties with and who could be useful allies in Afghanistan once foreign troops withdraw.

The Haqqani network is led by Jalaluddin Haqqani and his son Siraj. The elder Haqqani was closely allied with Pakistan during the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Pakistan has denied that it has links with militants and has said that it cannot launch an offensive in North Waziristan until it wraps up operations in other areas of the tribal belt. "When you do an operation, you have to consolidate your position," Qureshi told reporters during a news conference in the city of Lahore. "If you do an operation without consolidating, what will happen is that you leave the place and they (the militants) will fill the gap again." The U.S. tried to encourage Pakistan to intensify its fight against extremists during the recent talks, offering a five-year, \$2 billion aid package to purchase American arms, ammunition and accessories from 2012 to 2016. The new aid, which must be approved by Congress, replaces a similar but less valuable package that began in 2005 and expired on Oct. 1. It will complement \$7.5 billion in civilian assistance the administration has already committed to Pakistan over five years, some of which has been diverted to help the country deal with devastating floods. □



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton meets with Pakistani Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi, Friday, Oct. 22, 2010, at the State Department in Washington.

Associated Press



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Gunbattle in northern Mexico kills 3 bystanders

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP) — Three bystanders died in the crossfire of a shootout between gunmen, police and soldiers in northern Mexico on Sunday.

The victims were a 14-year-old boy and two women aged 18 and 47, according to a statement by the prosecutors' office in northern Coahuila state.

The statement said gunmen traveling in two vehicles opened fire on a convoy of federal police and soldiers in the city of Saltillo, Coahuila. The officers and soldiers returned fire.

It was not clear who fired the shots that killed the bystanders, but the state attorney general's office said it was investigating and expressed condolences to the victims' families.



Mexican federal police officers stand outside a home after the exterior gate was covered with a plastic tarp in the northern city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, late Friday Oct. 22, 2010. At least 13 young people were shot dead and 15 wounded in an attack on this house during a party in Ciudad Juarez, the second such massacre in less than a week in the violent border city.

Associated Press

"They are civilians who unfortunately died in the

exchange of gunfire," it said, describing a running series of confrontations between police and assailants who allegedly fired shots into the air to clear bystanders from their path at one point.

Mexico's army, which has taken a leading role in combating drug gangs, has come under criticism for alleged indiscriminate use of force and firing on civilians.

Three gunmen also died Sunday in a separate shootout in another Coahuila city, Torreon. Coahuila has been the scene of bloody turf battles

between the Sinaloa cartel and the Zetas drug gang.

In the border city of Ciudad Juarez, meanwhile, the death toll from a birthday party massacre late Friday rose to 14 after an 18-year-old male died of his wounds.

Nineteen people were wounded in the attack on two private homes where about four dozen partygoers had gathered for a teen's birthday.

The dead identified so far were 13 to 32 years old, and the majority of the victims were high school students, a survivor said.

While investigators said

they have not yet identified the perpetrators or a motive, police found 70 bullet casings from assault weapons typically used by drug gangs at the scene of the shootings. Cartel violence has killed more than 2,000 people so far this year in the city across from El Paso, Texas.

Drug gangs have increasingly attacked private parties that they believe members of rival gangs might be attending; other innocent partygoers are often killed in such attacks.

On Sunday, prosecutors in northern Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juarez is located, said they were searching for a man known only by his nickname, "The Mouse," who was apparently the target of the gunmen.

The man was reportedly wounded in the Friday shooting, but has disappeared. Investigators said they believe he can shed light on who was trying to kill him.

Memorial services were held Sunday for some of the victims of Friday's attack, and prosecutors said that guards had been provided to protect those services. Friday's attack recalled a similar massacre in Ciudad Juarez in January, when gunmen killed 15 people at a house party. □



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Pirates seize 2 ships off Kenya

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Somali pirates seized a German freight ship off the coast of Kenya — the second commercial vessel to be captured in the region in as many days, officials said.

The pirates took control of the German freight ship Beluga Fortune on Sunday about 1,200 miles east of Mombasa, Kenya, a spokesman for the German army said on condition of anonymity, in keeping with military regulations.

The German shipping company Beluga-Reederei, which owns the vessel, said Sunday night that Somali pirates were behind the attack and that the ship was on its way from the United Arab Emirates to South Africa. Verena Beckhusen, a spokeswoman for the Bremen-based company, declined to give further details regarding the crew or the cargo, but the German news agency dapd said the vessel was carrying at least two German citizens. On Saturday night, pirates seized a liquefied gas tanker 105 miles off the coast of Kenya in the Somali Basin, said officials in Singapore, where the ship is registered.

The MV York was traveling from

Mombasa to Mahe in the Seychelles with 17 crew when pirates commandeered it, the Singapore Maritime and Port Authority said in a statement.

The authority said Sunday it was working with the ship's owner, York Maritime Co., and government agencies to recover the ship.

A Turkish warship sent a helicopter to investigate the attack, and its crew members saw pirates armed with weapons aboard the MV York, the European Union Naval Force said Sunday.

The 5,076-ton MV York had one German, two Ukrainians and 14 Filipinos aboard, the EU force said in a statement.

Somali pirates have long been active in the region, and they currently are holding 19 vessels with 428 hostages, according to the EU Naval Force.

Somalia has lacked a fully functioning government since 1991, which makes it difficult to prosecute suspected Somali pirates. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recently said options under consideration to do that more effectively include creating a special international court.



In this undated photo released Sunday Oct. 24, 2010, by Interunity Management Corporation SA, (IMC) showing the MV York merchant vessel which was boarded by suspected Somali pirates approximately 90 nautical miles from Mombasa, Kenya, on Saturday Oct. 23, 2010. A distress signal from the vessel was received Saturday as the York sailed between Mombasa and Mahe, Seychelles, with 17 crew aboard, and is now believed to be headed towards Somalia under the control of pirates.

Associated Press

But some countries have gone ahead with their own court cases.

In Yemen, 13 Somali men accused of stealing boats off the country's coast pleaded not guilty Saturday to piracy. The Yemeni prosecution said the men were arrested in May on the shores of

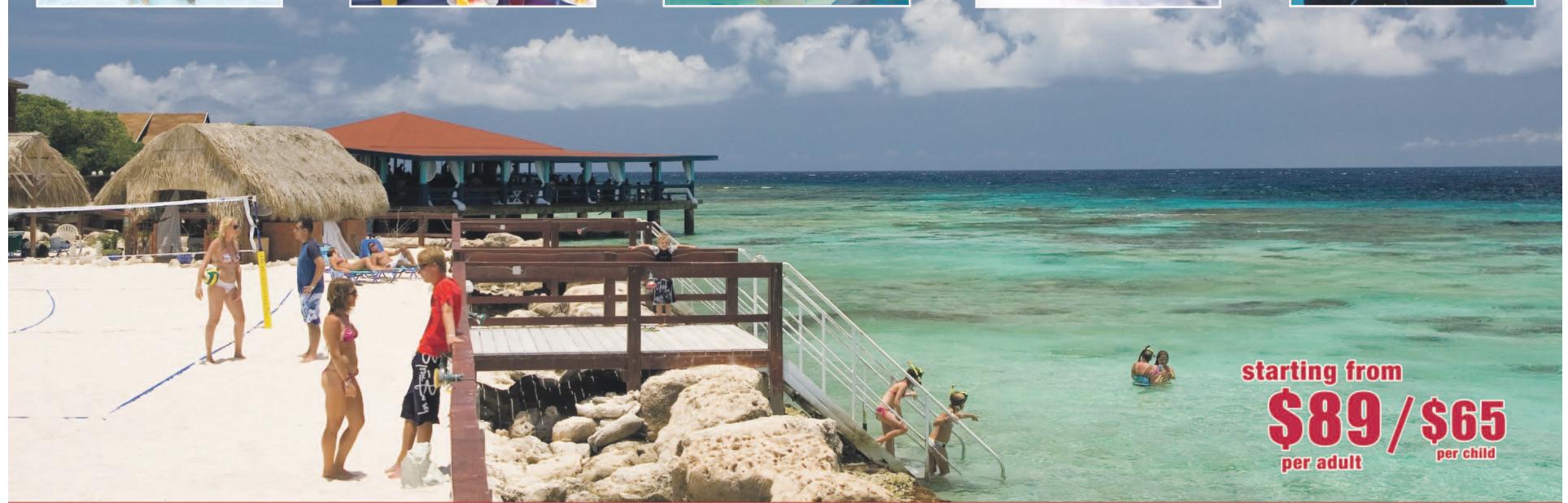
al-Mahra in eastern Yemen. It said their ship was carrying weapons, explosives and ladders.

The trial, being held in the eastern province of Hadramawt, was postponed to Nov. 6 to give the suspects a chance to secure a lawyer. □

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A nun from the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, hangs a serum bag on a tree for patients suffering cholera symptoms in Robine, Haiti, Saturday Oct. 23, 2010. A spreading cholera outbreak in rural Haiti threatened to outpace aid groups as they stepped up efforts Saturday hoping to keep the disease from reaching the camps of earthquake survivors in Port-au-Prince. Health officials said at least 208 people had died.

Associated Press

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In Haiti, cholera could heighten earthquake misery

JACOB KUSHNER

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A cholera outbreak that already has left 250 people dead and more than 3,000 sickened is at the doorstep of an enormous potential breeding ground: the squalid camps in Port-au-Prince where 1.3 million earthquake survivors live. Health authorities and aid workers are scrambling to keep the tragedies from merging and the deaths from multiplying.

Five cholera patients have been reported in Haiti's capital, heightening worries that the disease could reach the sprawling tent slums where abysmal hygiene, poor sanitation, and widespread poverty could rapidly spread it. But government officials said Sunday that all five apparently got cholera outside Port-au-Prince, and they voiced hope that the deadly bacterial disease could be confined to the rural areas where the outbreak originated last week. "It's not difficult to prevent the spread to Port-au-Prince. We can prevent it," said Health Ministry director Gabriel Timothee. He said tightly limiting movement of patients and careful disposal of bodies can stave off a major medical disaster.

If efforts to keep cholera out of the camps fail, "The worst case would be that we have hundreds of thousands of people getting sick at the same time," said Claude Surena, president of the Haiti Medical Association. Cholera can cause vomiting and diarrhea so severe it can kill from dehydration in hours.

Doctors Without Borders issued a statement saying that some Port-au-Prince residents were suffering from watery diarrhea and were being treated at facilities in the capital city. Cholera infection among the patients had not been confirmed, however, and aid workers stressed that diarrhea has not been uncommon in Port-au-Prince since the earthquake.

"Medical teams have treated many people with watery diarrhea over the last several months," Doctors Without Borders said.

Aid workers in the impoverished nation say the risk is magnified by the extreme poverty faced by people displaced by the Jan. 12 earthquake, which killed as many as 300,000 people and destroyed much of the capital city. Haitians living in the camps risk disease by failing to wash their hands, or scooping up standing water and then proceeding to wash fruits and vegetables.

"There are limited ways you can wash your hands and keep your hands washed with water in slums like we have here," said Michel Thieren, an official with the Pan-American Health Organization in Haiti. "The conditions for transmission are much higher."

Aid workers are coaching thousands of impoverished families how best to avoid cholera. Various aid groups are providing soap and water purification tablets and educating people in Port-au-Prince's camps about the importance of washing their hands.

Aid groups also began training more staff about cholera and where to direct people with symptoms. The disease had not been seen in Haiti for decades, and many people don't know about it.

Members of one grassroots Haitian organization traveled around Port-au-Prince's camps boozing warnings about cholera from speakers in the bed of a pickup truck. "Many people have become sick," announced Etant Dupain, in front of the Champs de Mars camp by Haiti's broken national palace. "If you have a family member that has diarrhea, bring them to the hospital immediately. Have them use separate latrines." In a promising development, aid group Partners in Health said hospital management was improving in the city at the center of the initial outbreak, St. Marc, which is about a 60-mile drive northwest of Haiti. Just 300 patients were hospitalized on Saturday, a number that has decreased by the end of each day. A cholera treatment center in St. Marc is expected to be functional within the week, and efforts were ongoing to make clean water available in rural communities, especially those where rivers were the only source of water. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, October 25, 2010



Nacional unbeaten at the top of Aruba's soccer championship

DAKOTA - The soccer team of the Noord district of Aruba, SV Deportivo Nacional, remained unbeaten and leading the standing of the Aruba's Honor Division amateur soccer championship by routing opposing soccer team Caravel of the Sta. Cruz district 3 – 1 last Friday night in the Guillermo Prospero Trinidad Stadium in Dakota near downtown Oranjestad. Nacional is currently the team to beat in the island's amateur soccer championship. The team was defeated in last year's semi-finals, but it shows it has other plans for the current championship. The above photo depicts two Caravel defenders sandwiching a Nacional striker in an air ball duel.

(Photo by Anthony Carlo).



Jimin Kang wins Sime Darby LPGA

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Jimin Kang won the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia

Jimin Kang of the U.S. poses with her trophy after winning the Sime Darby LPGA Malaysia 2010 golf tournament at Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

for her second LPGA Tour title, beating Juli Inkster by a stroke Sunday when the 50-year-old Hall of Famer bogeyed the final hole. Kang, the 30-year-old South Korean player, birdied the par-4 18th for a 6-under 65 and a 9-under total at Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club. Inkster

finished with her second straight 67. She birdied Nos. 15-17 to take the lead, but couldn't hold on in her bid to break the LPGA Tour age record of 46 years, 8 months set by Beth Daniel in the 2003 Canadian Women's Open. Sweden's Maria Hjorth (71) and Japan's Mika Miyazato (69) tied for third at 6 under, and South Korea's Meena Lee (69) was 5 under. Michelle Wie shot a 74 to tie for 34th at 3 over. Kang, also the 2005 LPGA Corning Classic winner, birdied three of the last four holes. She earned \$270,000 in the inaugural event. □

WTA rolls out new logo to boost its brand

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The women's tennis tour has unveiled a new logo at the season-ending WTA Championship that aims to shift the spotlight from sponsors to the tour itself. Until now, the logo has included the WTA name along with main sponsor Sony Ericsson and a small graphic of a tennis player. The new logo unveiled in Doha, Qatar Sunday features only the letters WTA in white with a bright purple background.

WTA officials said the aim of the rebranding is to remind fans "of the captivating athleticism and excitement that has driven the international popularity and growth of women's professional tennis."

The new logo will be fully integrated throughout women's professional tennis in the 2011 season, including in television graphics, tournament branding and social media. □



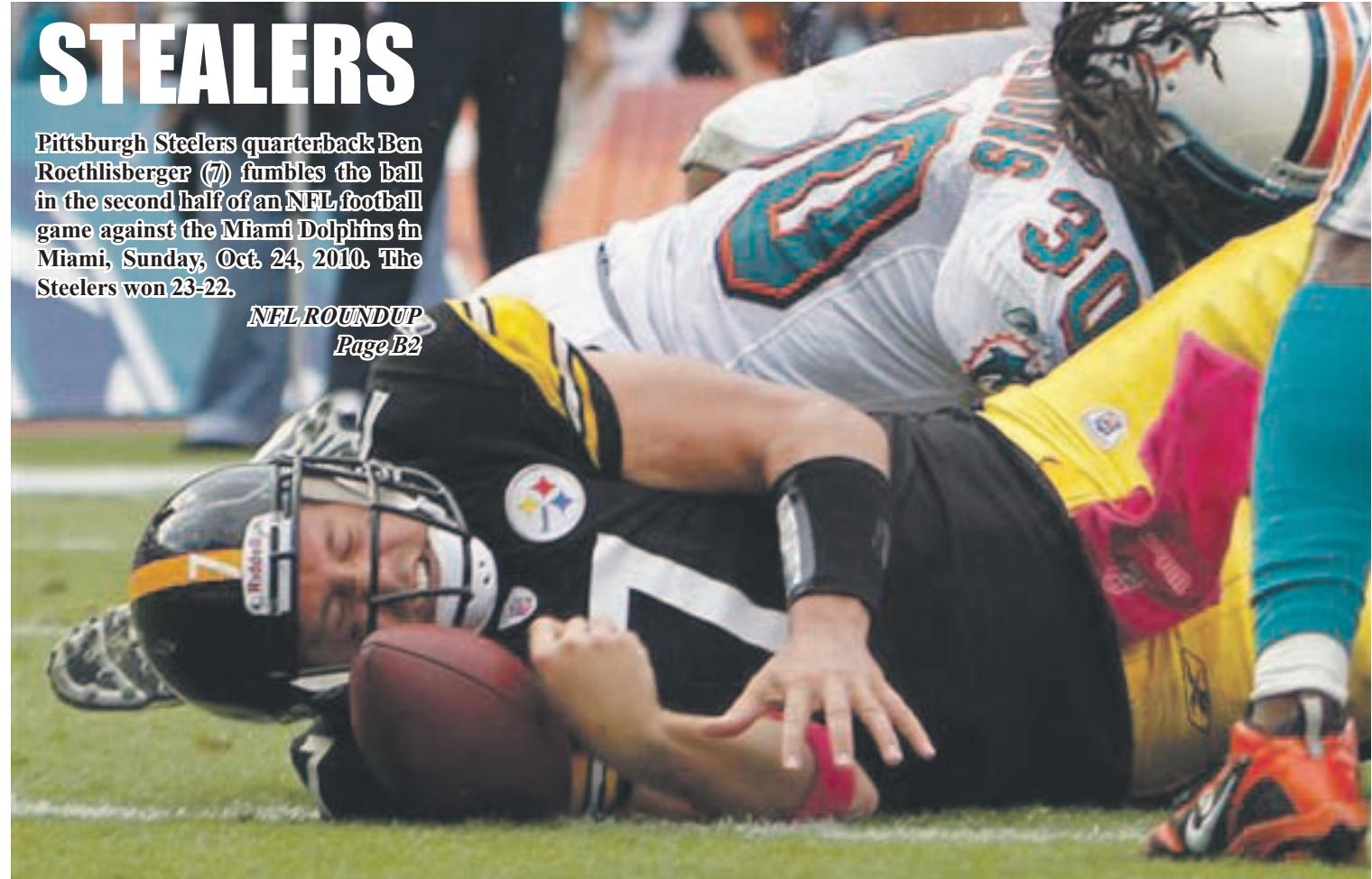
Tennis players gather for the draw ahead of the upcoming WTA Championships, in Doha, Qatar, on Sunday Oct. 24, 2010, with left to right, Italy's Francesca Schiavone, Belgium's Kim Clijsters, Russia's Vera Zvonareva, Denmark's Caroline Wozniacki, Serbia's Jelena Jankovic, Russia's Elena Dementieva and Australia's Samantha Stosur. The women's tennis tour (WTA) unveiled a new logo Sunday before the season-ending WTA Championship.

Associated Press

STEALERS

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) fumbles the ball in the second half of an NFL football game against the Miami Dolphins in Miami, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010. The Steelers won 23-22.

NFL ROUNDUP
Page B2



NFL Roundup**Officials' blunder helps Steelers beat Miami 23-22****The Associated Press**

MIAMI (AP) — An officiating mistake negated Ben Roethlisberger's late fumble, and the Steelers kicked the game-winning field goal against the Dolphins on the next play Sunday.

Jeff Reed made an 18-yarder with 2:30 left, allowing Pittsburgh to escape with a 23-22 win.

One play earlier, with Pittsburgh trailing 22-20 and facing third-and-goal at the 2, Roethlisberger fumbled as he dived across the goal line on a quarterback draw. The play was ruled a touchdown as both teams scrambled for the loose ball in the end zone. After a replay review, referee Gene Steratore announced that Roethlisberger fumbled before scoring. But Steratore said his crew had no clear evidence as to which team recovered the ball, and the Steelers (5-1) were awarded possession at the half-yard line, allowing Reed to kick the winner.

The Dolphins (3-3) then lost the ball on downs, gaining only 4 yards in four plays.

Panthers 23, 49ers 20

At Charlotte, North Carolina, John Kasay kicked a 37-yard field goal with 39 seconds remaining to give Carolina (1-5) its first win of the season. The 49ers' David Carr was intercepted by Richard Marshall with just over



Miami Dolphins linebacker Karlos Dansby (58) lands on the ball fumbled by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger in the second half of an NFL football game in Miami, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010. The Steelers won 23-22.

a minute left to set up the winning kick. The 49ers fell to 1-6.

The Panthers tied it when rookie David Gettis, who had dropped a touchdown pass earlier in the fourth quarter on fourth down, made a diving 23-yard TD grab with 1:53 left.

With Alex Smith out after spraining his left shoulder, Carr threw into double coverage and Marshall picked it off at the Carolina 43. Matt

Moore then found Brandon LaFell for 35 yards to set up Kasay's winner.

Ravens 37, Bills 34 OT

At Baltimore, the Bills came close, but Billy Cundiff kicked a 38-yard field goal with 10:57 left in overtime after Ray Lewis stripped the ball from tight end Shawn Nelson, and Baltimore squeezed past winless Buffalo (0-6).

Joe Flacco threw three touchdown passes for the Ravens, who survived an uncharacteristic performance by a defense that was shredded for 505 yards.

Baltimore (5-2) trailed 24-10 late in the first half before scoring 24 straight points to take a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter. Buffalo's Ryan Fitzpatrick then threw a 17-yard touchdown pass to Lee Evans with 5:46 left, and the Bills forced overtime on a 50-yard field goal by Rian Lindell with 4 seconds left in regulation.

Fitzpatrick went 29 for 43 for 373 yards and four touchdowns — three to Evans and another to Steve Johnson. Redskins 17, Bears 14

At Chicago, DeAngelo Hall tied an NFL record with

four interceptions, running one back 92 yards for a touchdown, and Washington sacked Jay Cutler four times while forcing six turnovers.

Hall tied a record held by 18 others and became the first to pick off four passes since Deltha O'Neal did it with Denver in 2001. His one-handed interception and TD return late in the third quarter were made for the highlight reel and put the Redskins ahead for good, sending Chicago (4-3) to its third loss in four games.

Washington (4-3), meanwhile, equaled its win total from last season and joined a growing line of teams that has pounded Cutler. He now has been sacked 19 times in his last three games.

Falcons 39, Bengals 32

At Atlanta, Roddy White had a spectacular day for Atlanta, catching 11 passes for 201 yards.

The Falcons (5-2) squandered a 24-3 halftime lead, falling behind when Cincinnati (2-4) took advantage of two turnovers and ripped off 22 straight points in the third quarter.

White put the Falcons ahead

to stay with his second touchdown, an 11-yard reception early in the fourth. He then made a leaping catch on the 2-point conversion to make it 32-25.

After Cedric Benson's fumble, Michael Turner scored on a 3-yard run for a two-touchdown lead. Chad Ochocinco gave the Bengals a chance with a late 8-yard TD catch, but the Falcons recovered the onside kick.

Titans 37, Eagles 19

At Nashville, Tennessee, Kerry Collins threw three touchdowns to Kenny Britt, who had the best game of his career two days after being involved in a bar fight, and Tennessee scored 27 unanswered points in the fourth quarter.

Britt had the best receiving game in the NFL this season. He caught touchdown passes of 26, 80 and 16 yards and finished with seven receptions for 225 yards — all career highs for the second-year player on a day when he didn't start as punishment for his role in the fight.

The Titans (5-2) won their NFL-best 12th straight over the NFC with Collins making his first start in a year. Vince Young was sidelined by a sprained left knee and ankle that had him still limping in pregame warmups.

The Eagles (4-3) blew a 19-10 lead despite sacking Collins three times and forcing him into three turnovers.

Buccaneers 18, Rams 17

At Tampa, Florida, Josh Freeman led another Tampa Bay fourth-quarter comeback, throwing a 1-yard touchdown pass to Cadillac Williams with 10 seconds remaining.

Connor Barth kicked four field goals for the Bucs (4-2), who trailed 17-3 before battling back to surpass their win total for last season.

Sam Bradford threw two short touchdown passes and Steven Jackson became the Rams' all-time leading rusher before things unraveled for St. Louis (3-4). Jackson finished with 110 yards on 22 carries, hiking his career total to 7,324. □

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Jonathan Byrd hits the jackpot in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Jonathan Byrd won a three-man playoff with a hole-in-one on the fourth extra hole in the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospital Open on Sunday.

Moments earlier, Byrd stood on the 18th green with Martin Laird and Cameron Percy as they discussed whether there was enough light to continue. They agreed to play one more hole — the 204-yard 17th at the TPC Summerlin.

And the playoff essentially ended with one swing.

It was too dark for Byrd to see his ball land about 10 feet short of the flag and roll into the cup, and even the cheers from a smattering of fans around the green weren't convincing.

"Did that go in?" Byrd asked his caddie.

Almost as stunning was that Byrd remained in the playoff. On the third playoff hole, the par-4 18th, Byrd's approach tumbled over the green and was one hop away from going into the water. Instead, it settled in a clump of grass, he chipped up to 7 feet and made the par putt just to stay alive.

Another swing later, he only had to wait for Laird and Percy to hit their shots — and they both hit into the water — to come up with his first win of the year.

"I'm in shock," Byrd said, certainly speaking for everyone watching another Fall Series thriller.

Only a week ago, Rocco Mediate won the Frys.com Open at CordeValle by holing a wedge for eagle on the 17th hole of the final round, right after Alex Prugh

came within inches of holing out from the tee with a driver. This one was even more incredible, and it came at just the right time. Byrd was No. 117 on the money list going into Las Vegas. His fourth career victory now gives him a two-year exemption. Players have made an eagle with a full swing on the final hole to win tournaments but a walk-off ace is among the rarest moments in golf.

Byrd closed with a 68, and he had to watch four times — once in regulation, three times in a playoff — as Laird stood over a birdie putt with a chance to win. That sequence started in regulation, when Laird had a 30-foot birdie attempt. Laird, the defending champion, shot 69.

Percy, the Australian rookie who needed to win to keep his card on the PGA Tour, earlier holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 67 that allowed him to get into the playoff. They finished at



George Mitchell, left, from the Shriners, and Justin Timberlake, right, present Jonathan Byrd with the trophy after Byrd's hole-in-one on the fourth playoff hole to win the Justin Timberlake Shriners Hospitals for Children Open golf tournament at TPC Summerlin on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

21-under 263.

Byrd won \$774,000 for his first win since the 2007 John Deere Classic.

Webb Simpson was at 22 under and had a one-shot

lead until he pulled his tee shot into the water on the 17th and made double bogey. He finished with a 68 and wound up one shot out of the playoff, along with Spencer Levin, who had a 66.

Nick Watney, who lives in Las Vegas and was playing his final tournament before his wedding, had a 66 and shared sixth place with Cameron Beckman, who had a 67. □

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Auburn up to 3 behind Oregon, Boise St in AP poll



Auburn quarterback Cam Newton celebrates their 24-17 win over LSU in an NCAA college football game at Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn, Ala., Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010.

Associated Press

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By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

NEW YORK — The other team from Alabama surged toward the top of the AP poll while another set of Tigers has emerged as the Big 12's unexpected national title contender.

Auburn jumped two spots to No. 3 behind top-ranked Oregon and Boise State in the media poll Sunday, and Missouri vaulted 11 spots to No. 7.

Oregon, which moved to No. 1 for the first time last week and followed up with a 60-13 victory against UCLA on

Thursday night, received 44 first-place votes. Boise State had 11, Auburn received three and No. 4 TCU received two. Auburn has its highest ranking since the Tigers were No. 2 in 2006 after beating LSU 24-17 on Saturday in a matchup of the Southeastern Conference's last unbeaten teams. Quarterback Cameron Newton ran for 217 yards, cementing himself as the Heisman Trophy front-runner. The Tigers started the season No. 22 and have been climbing steadily since. Michigan State is fifth and Alabama, last year's champion and the

preseason No. 1, is sixth. Missouri's big move came after the Tigers beat previously undefeated Oklahoma 36-27. The Sooners dropped eight spots to No. 11. Missouri was last ranked this highly in 2007, when the Tigers reached No. 1 and finished the season No. 4. The rest of the top 10 is Utah, Wisconsin and Ohio State. No. 25 Baylor (6-2) is ranked for the first time since Sept. 5, 1993, when the Bears were No. 24 for a week.

"It's certainly a step in the right direction, you know," third-year coach Art Briles said Sunday. "Important thing is to be in it when the season's over, that's the important thing, but it's definitely a positive step perception-wise, no doubt."

The Bears beat Kansas State 47-42 Saturday behind quarterback Robert Griffin III to become bowl eligible for the first time since joining the Big 12 in 1996.

"It is a growing point for our football team and for Baylor nation in general," Briles said. The last time the Bears were ranked for more than a week was 1991, when they were still part of the Southwest Conference. To match that, they'll likely need to win at Texas this Saturday.

Texas fell out of the rankings for the second time this season after being upset at home 28-21 by Iowa State. The last time the Bears and Longhorns played with Baylor ranked and Texas not was Nov. 22, 1986. The Bears beat the 'Horns 18-13 in Waco.

West Virginia also dropped out of the rankings this week after a surprising 19-14 home loss to Syracuse. □

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Report: Favre admits leaving voicemails

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL star Brett Favre reportedly admitted leaving voicemails for the former New York Jets game hostess but denied that he also sent her lewd photos.

Fox television's Jay Glazer reported Sunday that Favre told league investigators earlier this week he left phone messages for Jenn Sterger, who worked for the Jets in 2008 when Favre was their quarterback.

Fox did not say who

provided the information. The NFL said it is not commenting on details of the investigation.

Glazer also reported that Favre denied sending Sterger inappropriate photos.

The NFL is investigating a Deadspin report earlier this month that Favre sent the racy photos to Sterger two years ago. Sterger, now an on-air personality for Versus, has not cooperated with the league yet, but her

manager, Phil Reese, told The Associated Press on Sunday that could happen quickly.

"She is strongly considering it, leaning toward it," Reese said.

Asked if Favre admitted leaving the voicemails for Sterger, but denied sending any photos, Reese added: "We're currently in the fact-gathering stage; all I'm doing is dealing with facts. Unfortunately the person in the pictures didn't also hold



In this image taken from video, Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre reacts during an NFL football news conference Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010, in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Associated Press

up their driver's license, so I'm not going to speculate as far as identity. But I'm working with people to diligently get all the facts." Reese also has said that Sterger has had no discussions with Favre's

representatives about a possible financial settlement stemming from the allegations.

Favre and the Minnesota Vikings play Sunday night at Green Bay. □

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**Denny Hamlin wins third straight at Martinsville**

Denny Hamlin gets the checkered flag after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series auto race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

By HANK KURZ Jr.

AP Sports Writer

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Denny Hamlin passed Kevin Harvick for the lead with 29 laps to go Sunday and won his third consecutive NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Martinsville Speedway.

"I don't think I've ever closed that well, ever," Hamlin said in Victory Lane. He became the first driver since Jimmie Johnson in 2007 to sweep both races on the shortest, tightest track in the series, and both he and Harvick closed the gap on Johnson in the points race with four races to go. Hamlin cut his 41-point deficit to six points, and Harvick is 62 behind. The margin between the top two in the standings is the smallest with four races to go since the Chase started in 2004.

Harvick finished third after Mark Martin passed him in the closing laps, but Harvick had his best showing in 19 career starts at the 0.526-mile oval; he'd never been better than seventh.

"Everybody said it was a two-horse race, and we were right there in the middle of it," Harvick said. He gained 15 points in the standings, with the series heading next to Talladega, where he won in the spring. Johnson, the four-time defending champion, rallied to finish fifth, also finishing behind Kyle Busch.

"For awhile I thought the 29, the 11 and us were just going to ride together all day long," Johnson said of Hamlin and Harvick, "but then the 11 got going there at the end."

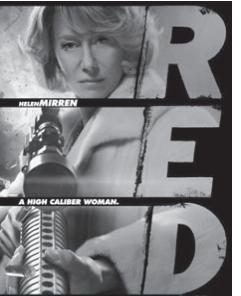
Hamlin led during most of a long green-flag run until Hamlin got to his rear bumper, then went to his inside. The two raced side-by-side for about five laps before Harvick checked up coming out of Turn 2, finally falling in line behind

Hamlin on lap 472. The race had 15 cautions for 90 laps, but the final 98 were run under a green flag.

"That's exactly what we needed at the end," Hamlin's crew chief, Mike Ford, said.

The race seemed likely to be a battle between Johnson and Hamlin, who had combined to win the last eight races at Martinsville and began the day 1-2 in the point standings.

Instead of domination, 12 different drivers led and there were 24 lead changes. Jeff Burton led the most laps with 134, but faded at the finish and came in ninth. Jeff Gordon had a rough day, seriously damaging his chance for a fifth championship. He entered fourth in points, 156 behind Hendrick Motorsports teammate Johnson, but was spun into the frontstretch wall by Kurt Busch after running in contention all race long. Gordon wound up 20th and fell to fifth in the standings, 203 points behind Johnson. □

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Teenager Matteo Manassero wins Castello Masters

CASTELLON, Spain (AP) — Matteo Manassero shot a 4-under 67 in the final round to win the Castello Masters and claim a place in the history of the European Tour Golf.

At 17 years and 188 days old the Italian teenager is the youngest player to win on the European Tour, beating the record held by Danny Lee of New Zealand, who was 18 years and 113 days old when he won the Johnnie Walker Championship in 2008.

It is the second record of Manassero's short career after he also became the youngest winner — at 16 — of the British Amateur Championship in 2009.

And after winning €330,000 (\$460,000), Manassero was at a loss to find a way to celebrate his victory.

"I am too young to have a drink, I am too young to drive so I will not be buying

a car and I have not got a girlfriend who would like a present," he said.

"But this was my first chance to win a tournament, which I never thought would come so quickly and to do it is unbelievable. My first aim when I turned professional was to win enough money to keep my card for next year and I achieved that in September."

Manassero started the final round at the Club de Campo Del Mediterraneo two shots behind overnight leader Gary Boyd of England. But at 16-under he eventually won by four shots from Spain's Ignacio Garrido who shot a 68 to reach 12 under.

Boyd collapsed in the final round with three poor drives starting on the 15th hole which led to him dropping four late shots and after a 74 he slipped back into a share of third place.



Matteo Manassero from Italy poses the trophy after winning the final round of the Castellon Masters Golf Costa de Azahar at the Castellon's Club de Campo, Spain, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

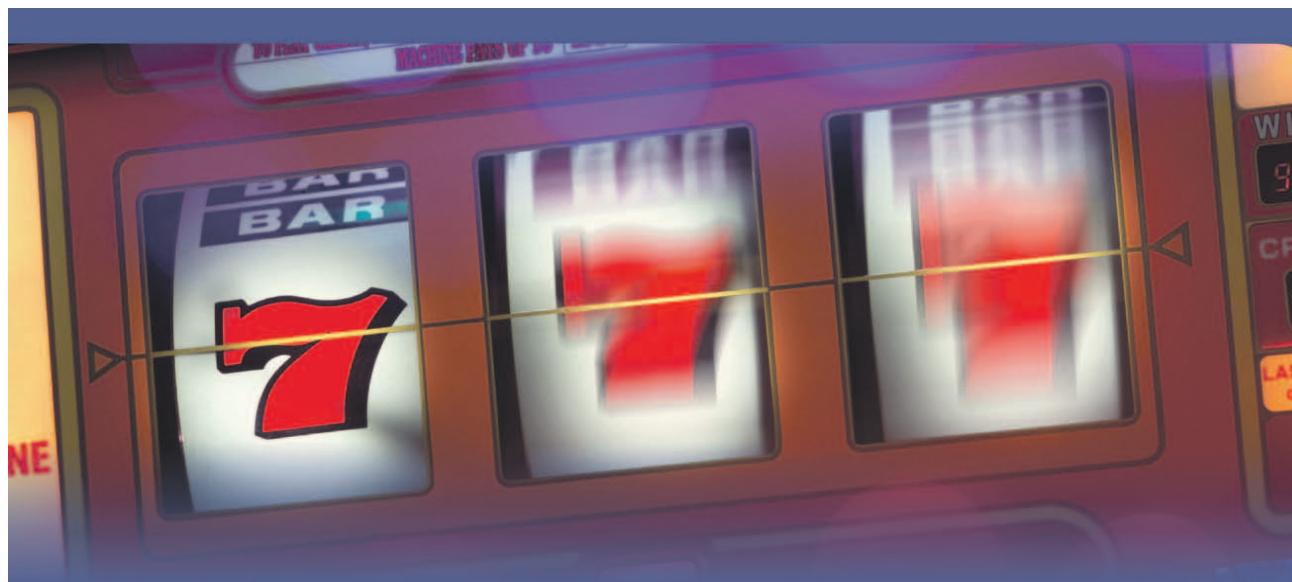
Associated Press

Joost Luiten (68) of the Netherlands and Ireland's Peter Lawrie (70) also finished with a share of third place at 11-under.

Jose Maria Olazabal's attempt to overcome his chronic rheumatoid arthritis and play four rounds for

the first time in 2010 was successful but proved to have a disappointing ending. He had a series of bogeys in the final round and after handing in a 77 to the official recorder was disqualified for signing for a wrong score. It should have been 78.

"I feel happy to have played four rounds for the first time of the year," said Olazabal, who is favored to be Europe's next Ryder Cup captain. "The only pain is the way that I played today and what happened afterwards." □



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Federer wins Stockholm Open, ties Pete Sampras

KEITH MOORE

Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Roger Federer beat Germany's Florian Mayer 6-4, 6-3 to win the Stockholm Open on Sunday, and match Pete Sampras' total of 64 career titles.

"It's amazing that I'm there where Pete's ended his career on," Federer said. "You never know when it's your last one, that's why you want to savor every tournament victory."

Federer didn't have it all his own way in claiming his third title of the year at the Royal Tennis Hall against the 47th-ranked Mayer.

The unorthodox German broke Federer in the seventh game, before Federer started spraying some trademark winners to come back and take the set.

Federer showed glimpses of his best form in the second set, mixing power and finesse to outclass Mayer and win the match in 63 minutes.



Roger Federer of Switzerland displays his trophy after defeating Florian Mayer of Germany in their ATP Stockholm Open tennis tournament final match, in Stockholm, Sweden, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010.

Associated Press

Winner slams race conditions after swimmer's death

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The president of FINA said Sunday that "overexertion" led to the death of U.S. national team swimmer Fran Crippen at a race in the United Arab Emirates and that swimming's governing body has launched an investigation into the tragedy.

The 26-year-old Crippen died Saturday while competing in the FINA Open Water 10-kilometer World Cup at Fujairah, east of Dubai. He failed to finish and was found in the water two hours later, organizers said.

The winner of the race, Germany's Thomas Lurz, criticized both FINA and race organizers on Sunday. He said the temperatures were too hot for racing, that FINA's open water schedule was too grueling and that organizers should have done more to ensure swimmers were safe. "What we know initially is that he exerted himself more than he could, that's what we know," said FINA President Julio Maglione of Uruguay, attending an International Olympic Committee conference in Acapulco,



In this July 14, 2007, file photo, Fran Crippen of the United States, holds up his gold medal he won in the men's 10-kilometer swimming marathon at the Pan American Games at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro. Crippen died during a race in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, Oct. 23, 2010.

Associated Press

Mexico.

"Apart from the investigation, we are awaiting a report from our technical director who says that everything was normal according to the regulations," Maglione said. "The medical report said it was huge overexertion, that's what they told me. It must have caused him to collapse."

Gunnar Werner of Sweden, a member of FINA's legal commission and a former FINA honorary member, has been selected to lead the investigation and was due to arrive at the race site late Sunday.

"When he finishes his inquiry we'll put out our position," FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu told The AP. "We understand that they have the medical report in Arabic and they will translate it to English and send it to us. Probably tomorrow we will have it in the office."

Race officials confirmed a medical report and autopsy has been completed.

FINA rules place no limit on how warm the water can be.

"This is usually the case at events in this area," Marculescu said. "For some athletes it's good and for some it's not. Our rules cover only cold water."

"It's very surprising and unpleasant. This is a swimmer with a lot of experience. He was a fantastic guy and he came from a big swimming family," Marculescu said. "We've never had something like that happen in our sport before. I'm sorry for him and his family." □

Federer broke with the score at 3-2 in the second with a drop shot and played a sliced backhand that Mayer could only watch as he took the score to 5-2.

Since 1968, only Jimmy Connors (109), Ivan Lendl (94) and John McEnroe (77) have won more singles tournaments than Federer and Sampras.

"Early on, I think that feeling of wanting to prove yourself to the world and all the doubters is a very strong one, so you're very aggressive in your ways of winning and not enjoying them," Federer said. "Today it's much more of the enjoyment part because I don't need to prove myself to anyone anymore, except to myself."

Federer, the 16-time Grand Slam winner, continues to reach new milestones with every season. On Friday he won his 50th match of the year, becoming only the fifth man, and the first since Sampras, to win 50 matches in at least nine straight years in the Open era.

Federer received a standing ovation from the 5,200 crowd as Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria presented him with the trophy, in what was his first appearance at the tournament for a decade.

"For me, every tournament victory is special, this is one I'll definitely remember, maybe more than other ones," Federer said.

It's his first tournament win in Sweden and the 18th country in which he has lifted titles.

"It feels great winning any tournament, but especially in a country where I've never been successful before," Federer said. "Mayer played a really good match in the final and I had to really come up with some good tennis."

The unseeded Mayer, who is still to win an ATP title, was appearing in his third career final and first in four years. He knocked out second-seeded Robin Soderling in the quarterfinals and his unorthodox style also gave Federer difficulty throughout the match.

But Federer has now beaten Mayer in all three of their encounters without losing a set. Indeed, Federer has only lost five matches against players ranked above 40 in the past five years.

"It was over really after the first set," Mayer said. "I got tired while his game improved a lot, but I felt it was a closer match than the score showed."

Federer had to come from a set behind to beat fellow-Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in the quarterfinals and was broken in the third game of Saturday's semifinal against fourth-seeded Ivan Ljubicic, before coming back to win the match. □

Online TV spats mean fewer free shows on Web

By RYAN NAKASHIMA,
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Broadcasters took a big step toward eliminating free TV shows on the Web after they blocked access to their programming online this month to enforce their demands to be paid.

Recent actions by Fox, ABC, NBC and CBS in two separate fee disputes suggest that after a few years of experimenting with free, ad-supported viewing, broadcasters believe they can make more money from cable TV providers if they hold back some programming online.

That could mean new limits on online viewing are coming: Broadcasters might make fewer of their shows available to begin with, or delay when they become available - say, a month after an episode is broadcast, rather than the few hours it typically takes now. It would make it tougher for viewers to drop their cable TV subscriptions and watch shows online instead. If cable and satellite TV providers can hang on to more subscribers, broadcasters can then demand more money from them to carry their stations on the lineups.

Last weekend, News Corp.'s Fox made TV programming history by blocking online access to its shows, including "Glee" to 2.6 million Cablevision Systems Corp. broadband Internet subscribers. It was part of a fee dispute over how much Cablevision pays to carry the signals of Fox-owned TV stations.

At around the same time, ABC, NBC and CBS turned off access to full episodes when accessed from the new Google TV Web browser, which became available this month.

Both actions sent the message that broadcasters are demanding to be paid for their shows wherever they are seen - just as new devices are making it easier to watch those shows on regular TV sets.

"Basically, they're trying to work hard to ensure that 'cord-cutting' is not an attractive



FILE - In this Oct. 18, 2010 file photo, a Philadelphia Phillies player practices in front of an advertisement for postseason baseball on Fox in San Francisco. Broadcasters took a big step toward eliminating free TV shows on the web after they blocked access to their online programming this month to enforce their demands to be paid.

option anymore," said analyst Derek Baine of research firm SNL Kagan, referring to the phenomenon of people cutting their cable subscriptions and catching shows online to save money.

BTIG Research analyst Rich Greenfield put it more bluntly in a blog post on Monday.

"Consumers must be made to realize that nothing is free anymore," he wrote.

Fox's tactic wasn't entirely successful. It inadvertently drew into the dispute the Cablevision Internet customers who got their TV feeds from other companies such as DirecTV Inc. Fox abandoned its Internet blockade after about 12 hours following protests from several lawmakers, including Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., a senior member on a House subcommittee that oversees technology and the

Internet.

Fox TV stations have remained off Cablevision lineups since Oct. 16, though, as the two companies remained locked in dispute. Cablevision has about 3.1 million TV subscribers in the New York area.

The Walt Disney Co.'s ABC, General Electric Co.'s NBC and CBS Corp. also have been blocking Google TV's Web browser from playing their full shows on websites such as ABC.com and TV.com. The Sony television that came pre-installed with the Google software package can still access their channels like any other TV.

Google Inc. conceded that it could not force the broadcasters to make their content available, even though they do so freely through other outlets.

"It is ultimately the content owner's choice to restrict users

can also be received over the air with a digital antenna. Because most people now get broadcast stations through subscription services, the cable and satellite operators have been grudgingly paying for the retransmission rights.

Such fees have become an increasingly lucrative revenue stream that makes free over-the-air TV more closely resemble cable channels that require paid subscriptions.

But broadcasters find they now must justify those payments. One way is to limit access to their shows for free online, just as Time Warner Inc.'s HBO and other cable channels limit access to their programs on the Web. Access requires passwords tied to cable subscriptions. Baine and Greenfield said broadcasters would likely move to this "walled garden" approach as well.

Time Warner is pursuing such a model, called "TV Everywhere." It would allow paying TV customers to watch shows from its channels including TNT and TBS online after proving their identity. In a similar move, Time Warner Cable Inc., the nation's second-largest cable TV provider, announced Friday that subscribers who pay for plans that include ESPN would also get access to live sports shows online through ESPN3.com starting Monday. Video on that site is restricted to customers of participating subscription TV providers.

Separately, broadcasters are selling their shows online for as little as 99 cents through places such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes store and on Amazon.com - another method that ensures they get paid.

Collins Stewart analyst Thomas Eagan said Fox's inability to exactly target customers that relied on Cablevision for both video and Internet access could prompt it to simply withdraw some programs from the Web altogether. "At the end of the day, you're more likely to end up seeing content companies changing what they make available for free online," he said. □

WSJ: MySpace, apps share user IDs with advertisers

LOS ANGELES — MySpace has been sharing with its advertisers data that can be used to identify user profile pages, but the company doesn't consider that to be a problem.

The company said it did not consider the data to be information that could identify a person, partly because MySpace doesn't require members to use their real names. The social networking site acknowledged transmitting information to advertisers that included a user ID and the last page viewed before a user clicked on an ad.

MySpace issued the statement following a report in The Wall Street Journal on Friday

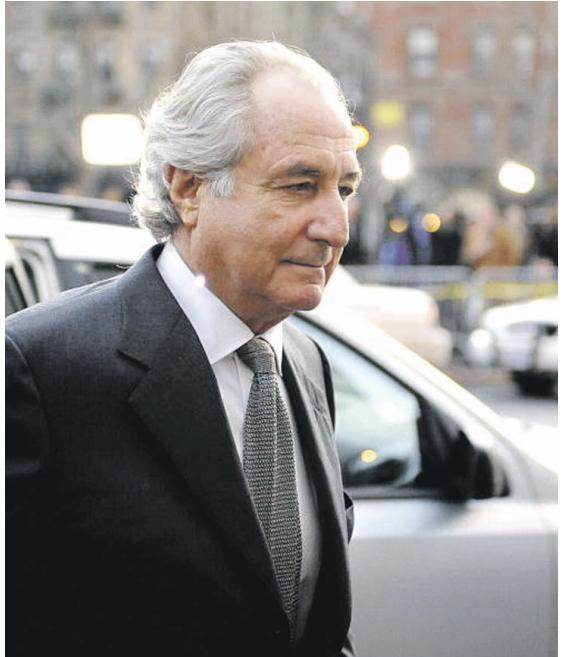
disclosing the sharing. The Journal and MySpace are both owned by News Corp.

The Journal also said some MySpace applications developed by outside parties had been sharing user IDs in violation of MySpace's terms of use.

Although MySpace also shares user IDs with application developers, it does not allow them to share that data further.

The social networking site said it found recently that an app called "Tagme" had again violated this prohibition, but that the developer, BitRhymes Inc., had "promptly complied." □

The art world's Bernie Madoff, and his deceptions



NEW YORK – In a clattery, uptown bistro, not far from the studio where he once watched his father paint bold abstract masterpieces, Earl Davis contemplates the greatest loss of his life. Not his beloved father, Stuart Davis, who died in 1964 when Earl was 12. Nor his father's work, which Davis, an only child, spent three decades trying to document, preserve and showcase. Even the loss of the millions of dollars that the paintings were worth Davis' inheritance, swindled from him in the cruelest fashion is not what hurts the most.

The biggest loss, Davis says, was the love and friendship of the man he admired and adored, a man he trusted with everything his confidences, his dreams, his father's life's work.

Even now, several years after the unraveling of one of the most elaborate art frauds in history, Davis has nightmares about confronting Lawrence Salander, begging him for answers, for the truth.

Why did the art dealer spend decades cultivating his friendship even as he sold more than 90 of father's paintings behind his back, dismantling a collection that Davis had sought so hard to preserve? How could he have collaborated with Davis for 23 years, working together on an exhaustive catalog that detailed the story behind every Stuart Davis work, only to be sentenced before it was published?

What of the more mundane things those endless, richly satisfying conversations about art and philosophy and life? Was any of it real? The same anguished questions have tortured dozens of other victims from celebrities to wealthy collectors to artists and those managing their estates defrauded of some \$120 million by a man some call the Bernard Madoff of the art world, owner of a lavish Upper East Side gallery one luxury magazine called the best in the world.

Earlier this year, Salander pleaded guilty to 29 counts of grand larceny and fraud. In August, he was sentenced to six to 18 years in prison. In court documents and testimony, the 61-year-old Salander outlined his schemes: How he would sell art he didn't own, sometimes peddling the same painting or shares in a painting to two or more buyers. How he falsified records, lied to investors, submitted fraudulent loan applications, sold paintings that were for

exhibit only, and pocketed the money to pay for private jets, his multimillion dollar Manhattan town house, his 66-acre estate upstate.

Was it all a great con from the start? Or did Salander, as some suggest, cross to "the dark side" of the art world, taking advantage of a strangely unregulated place where priceless works are often consigned to galleries with little more than a handshake, where trust is as important as receipts?

"Larry Salander took that which is the essence of the art world relationships and violated it in the worst possible way," says Ellyn Shander, a psychiatrist who lost her late father's art collection to Salander. "He is a sly, manipulative sociopath, a con man with no soul."

But others describe Salander as a misunderstood visionary who was passionate about great art, who nourished lesser known artists as well as established ones, who ultimately felt betrayed himself by the world he loved and the backers who once believed in him.

"Was he a cheat? Yes. Was he ruthless? Yes," says artist Paul Resika, who exhibited with Salander for 19 years and lost much of his own art. "But he did great exhibitions that I consider a very high and moral thing to do. He did tremendous things for art."

Resika is speaking on the phone from Cape Cod. In the background his wife cries out, in disgust: "Larry Salander was a villain."

Ellyn Shander treasures childhood memories of the Sunday morning ritual with her father, Alexander Pearlman.

They would take the train to Manhattan from their home in Queens, sometimes with her two sisters in tow, and spend the afternoon wandering through art galleries, inevitably winding up at the Salander-O'Reilly gallery on 79th Street. (Salander's partner, William O'Reilly, retired from the gallery in 1997, but Salander kept the original name.)

Shander's eyes glow as she sits in her Stamford, Conn., home and describes growing up in a house filled with art, how the children pretended to friends and neighbors that their father, a physician, was an amateur painter because they were afraid the work would be stolen.

The tiny figurative piece by Modigliani the first her father ever bought. The vivid Monet seascape. Small Picassos and Cezannes.

All had their stories and memories. They were more than just objects, Shander says. "They were part of our life, part of our connection to our father."

At the gallery, Shander remembers a stocky, balding, genial man who embraced her father and called him "Doc." They would stroll through rooms filled with paintings American modernists like Marsden Hartley and Albert Pinkham Ryder as well as works by Matisse, Corot, Constable, Rembrandt and El Greco as the two men talked about the latest acquisitions. Her father, Shander says, loved Salander like a son.

And so after Pearlman died in 2004 at the age of 91, his daughters felt relieved when Salander drove to his home after the funeral and loaded the entire collection into a van "for safekeeping." □



In this photo provided by StarPix, Director Tod Williams, center, and New York fans line up to see *Paranormal Activity 2* at a free midnight screening Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2010. Fear has taken hold at the box office with a \$41.5 million debut for scary movie 'Paranormal Activity 2.' The follow-up to last year's micro-budgeted hit 'Paranormal Activity' got a jump on Halloween as fans packed theaters for another documentary-style thriller about a household plagued by a menacing spirit.

(AP Photo/Amanda Schwab, StarPix)

'Paranormal' follow-up scares \$41.5M out of fans

By DAVID GERMAIN,

AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES – Fear has taken hold at the box office with a \$41.5 million debut for scary movie "Paranormal Activity 2," according to studio estimates Sunday.

Paramount Pictures' follow-up to last year's micro-budgeted hit "Paranormal Activity" got a jump on Halloween as fans packed theaters for another documentary-style thriller about a household plagued by a menacing spirit.

"Paranormal Activity 2" did nearly half its business on Friday, following the pattern of many fright-flick franchises, which often draw big crowds on opening day then drop off sharply. The movie took in \$20.1 million Friday, with receipts falling to \$13 million Saturday and \$8.4 million Sunday.

The first "Paranormal Activity" rolled out gradually from city to city in a stealth-marketing campaign that built the buzz for the independently produced thriller that was shot for less than \$15,000.

By the time the movie went into nationwide release, it had turned into a horror sensation that went on to become a \$100 million hit.

The first movie came out of nowhere, and follow-up films to similar surprise smashes sometimes fall flat, such as "The Blair Witch Project" sequel. In its publicity campaign, Paramount tried to maintain an air of mystery around "Paranormal Activity 2."

"The challenge was to not make the mistake of some other movies of the past, and to treat it as its own very special entity. Even though we went wide with it, we tried to treat it a lot like the first one was treated from a publicity and marketing standpoint," said Don Harris, the studio's executive vice president for distribution.

Paramount also had the No. 2 movie with the stunt comedy "Jackass 3D," which opened in first place the previous weekend. "Jackass 3D" pulled in \$21.6 million, down sharply from its \$50 million opening.

But the movie raised its 10-day total to \$87.1 million, more than either of the earlier two "Jackass" movies took in during their entire runs.

Summit Entertainment's action comedy "Red" held up well from its No. 2 debut a weekend earlier, slipping to third with \$15 million and lifting its 10-day total to \$43.5 million. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks may dance to big swings, earnings

By Angela Moon

NEW YORK – U.S. stocks could see big swings to the downside this week on any remotely “bad” news since volatility indexes are at levels considered too low.

Investors also will face a blizzard of earnings, which many analysts believe will continue to support the rally that began early this month. But any disappointments in either earnings or outlooks could, of course, trigger a sharp sell-off.

What's more, the market is likely to continue to garner support from investors' hopes that the Federal Reserve will take more steps to stimulate the economy, in what is known as “quantitative easing” or “QE2.” The Fed is expected to unveil its initial commitment under QE2 at its November 2-3 meeting.

The Chicago Board of Options Exchange (CBOE) Volatility Index, or VIX (.VIX), a gauge widely used to measure investors' anxiety levels, fell 2.54 percent on Friday to close at 18.78, its lowest level since April. The VIX, which rose to near 50 in May, has been around or under 20 for the past two weeks.

Options traders note that there is a clear sign of extreme complacency in the VIX and that it is making the market more vulnerable than before. “The ‘market volatility’ index will see a lot more volatility (this week) since it is at such low levels now,” said Steve Claussen, chief investment strategist at online brokerage OptionHouse.com.

The iPath S&P 500 VIX Short Term Futures exchange-traded note, or ETN (VXX.P) is also at a new 52-week low of 12.83. The ETN offers directional exposure to volatility and is based off of the front two-month VIX futures.

“If you look at VIX futures,

investors seem to be always preparing for something to trigger the volatility to spike up again, yet there is nothing major in the immediate future that justifies that,” Claussen said.

The VIX futures were traded at around 21 for November and 24 for December, but going into 2011, they were showing an increase of 40 percent, trading above 26.

The VIX, widely known as Wall Street's fear gauge, is a 30-day risk forecast of stock market volatility. The index typically has an inverse relationship with the S&P benchmark as it tracks option prices that investors are willing to pay as protection on the underlying stocks.

Last week, the VIX instantly shot up nearly 12 percent on Tuesday when stocks suffered their steepest one-day decline since August after a surprising rate increase from China.

EARNINGS ON CENTER STAGE

Earnings will remain the center of attention this week. Many analysts predict that earnings will continue to support the market rally that kicked off October. If more companies report strong results, that could bolster sentiment, along with hopes for more Fed easing.

In the last week of October, 177 S&P 500 companies are due to report their balance sheets, of which seven are Dow components. Among them are energy giants Exxon (XOM.N) and Chevron (CVX.N) and technology giant Microsoft (MSFT.O). For details on earnings schedule, see

S&P 500 earnings are expected to increase 28 percent for the third quarter from a year ago, up from a growth estimate of 24 percent last week, according to Thomson



A view of the Exxon Mobil refinery in Baytown, Texas September 15, 2008.

Reuters data.

“The earnings are expected to be good (this) week as well ... we are not expecting any bad news out of there,” said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners, in New York.

But Cardillo said that negative news from economic data could spark market volatility, especially as it would come just a week before the November 2-3 meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, or FOMC, and in the week preceding the November 2nd mid-term elections. Major economic data for the coming week includes existing home

sales, durable goods orders and third-quarter GDP.

Elliot Spar, an options market strategist at Stifel Nicolaus, also said a sell-off could begin as early as this week in anticipation of the Fed meeting and the mid-term elections.

“For those that are waiting for the ‘sell on the news’ event on November 3 when the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee concludes its meeting to discuss the prospect of another round of quantitative easing, I believe that the sell-off in the market will start during the week of October 25.” □

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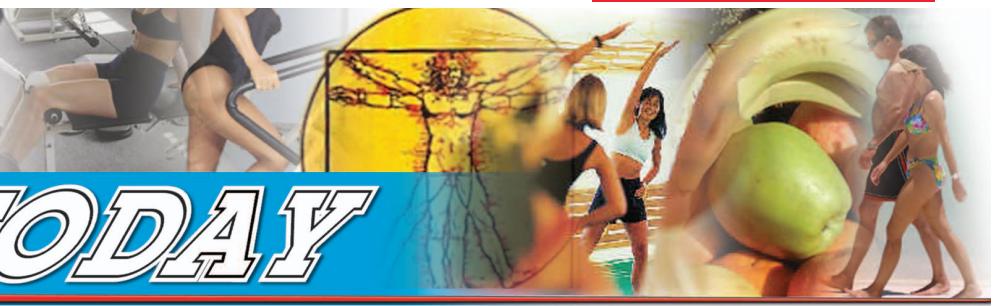
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HEALTH**Aruba TODAY**

Surge in child drinkers admitted to British hospitals



Posters advertising alcoholic drinks in the window of a nightclub in Birkenhead, near Liverpool, last year. The number of under-18s admitted to hospital in Britain because of drinking has increased by a third, according to a new report.

The number of under-18s admitted to hospital in Britain because of drinking has increased by a third, according to a new report.

The figure surged 32 percent between 2002 and 2007, with 36 children a day being admitted for alcohol related conditions, the study by the charity Alcohol Concern found.

In the last five years, London Ambulance Service responded to 11,780 alcohol-related call-outs involving under-18s at a cost of more than 2.5 million pounds, the research showed. In 2009/10, West Midlands Ambulance Service responded to 1,296 alcohol-related call-outs involving under-18s at a cost of almost 250,000 pounds, while the North East Ambulance Trust responded to just under 1,000 at a cost of 175,000 pounds.

In all cases, more young girls were seen by ambulance crews than young boys, the

charity said.

Alcohol Concern found that in the 2004 to 2009 period 28 percent more girls were admitted to hospital via accident and emergency departments for alcohol than boys - 23,347 girls compared to 18,159 boys.

The report 'Right time, right place: Alcohol-harm reduction strategies with children and young people' calls for earlier identification of young people engaged in 'risky' drinking such as young people attending A&E or getting into trouble with the police for alcohol

The charity's chief executive, Don Shenker, said: "As long as alcohol remains as heavily promoted as it currently is, young drinkers will continue to consume far more than they might otherwise, leading to inevitable health harms, wasting ambulance and police time.

"As well as tackling the ludicrously cheap price of alcohol in some settings, we want all under-18-year-olds who turn up at A&E to be advised and supported to address their drinking."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said: "This report shows the devastating impact that alcohol has on the lives of young people who drink too much. We must educate them so they understand how bad it is for their health now and in the long term. And we must do more to stop shops selling alcohol to under 18s.

"Everyone has a part to play in this. Parents, police, education and social services need to work together. The new Public Health Service will give communities the power and budget to tackle [alcohol problems](#) in their areas." □

New Moms' Brains May Grow After Childbirth

The brains of new mothers actually get bigger within months of giving birth, according to new research.

The researchers, most from the Yale University School of Medicine, said that the growth was likely fueled by changes in levels of certain hormones just after birth. They reported finding expansion in areas of the brain associated with behavior and motivation.

The researchers also found that mothers who were most enthusiastic about their babies had more growth in key parts of the mid-brain -- areas linked to maternal motivation, rewards and emotion processing -- than did mothers who were more reserved about their infants.

The findings, from a small study reported in the October issue of Behavioral Neuroscience, suggest that a new mother's desire to look after her baby may be driven less by instinct and more by active brain building, according to two neuroscientists whose commentary on the study was also published in the journal.

Led by neuroscientist Pilyoung Kim, the study compared MRI images of 19 women taken two to three weeks and three to four months after they gave birth at Yale-New Haven Hospital, in Connecticut. The women averaged about 33

years old, all were breast-feeding, nearly half had other children and none had postpartum depression.

The brain scans revealed small but significant increases in gray matter volume in various parts of the brain, including areas associated with maternal motivation (hypothalamus), reward and emotion processing (substantia nigra and amygdala), sensory integration (parietal lobe) and reasoning and judgment (prefrontal cortex).

In adults, gray matter generally does not change size over a few months without significant learning, brain injury or illness, or a major shift in the environment, according to background information in a news release from the American Psychological Association.

Hormonal changes that occur immediately after birth, including increases in estrogen, oxytocin and prolactin, may make new mothers' brains more susceptible to reshaping in response to their infant, according to the researchers.

Mothers who suffer postpartum depression may experience reductions, instead of growth, in these same brain areas, the researchers suggested. They added that further research into what occurs in the brains of at-risk mothers could lead to new treatments. □

FDA rejects weight-loss drug

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK (Reuters) - Arena Pharmaceuticals Inc said on Saturday U.S. health officials have rejected its experimental obesity pill, citing cancer risks.

The drugmaker said Food and Drug Administration officials requested an independent review of the findings and may require additional studies to assess risks to humans from tumors found in animal studies.

The FDA found the risks outweighed the "marginal" effectiveness of the drug.

Arena had hoped its drug, called lorcaserin, would be the first new U.S. prescription weight-loss drug in more than a decade in a sector battered by serious side effects.

But investors' hopes for the drug sank after FDA's outside advisers last month urged the agency to reject the pill amid worries that tumors in rats given the drug might indicate a risk of cancer in humans.

Shares of Arena have fallen 56 percent since the panel's recommendation, and analysts have largely expected the agency to reject the weight-loss drug since the panel voted last month.

Saturday's announcement is the latest in a string of bad news for U.S. diet drugs.

Abbott Laboratories' controversial Meridia was pulled off the market earlier this month, leaving few alternatives. FDA panelists in July also rejected a potential rival from Vivus Inc. The FDA's final decision is due on Thursday. □

Polar Vacation: Tourism with a Conservation Twist

Monica Heger

The most exciting moment of the tour came when the boat met a school of blue whales in the Arctic Ocean.

"We saw at least three blue whales, which are the largest species ever to live on earth, and we watched them in the brilliant midnight sun, which was extremely exciting," said Peter Prokosch, managing director of the United Nation's Environment Program's Polar Centre GRID-Adrenal. "Other exciting moments were meeting polar bears, walruses, and other breathtaking nature."

The tour wasn't just any research expedition monitoring Arctic species, however - it was part of a new program at GRID-Adrenal called Linking Tourism and Conservation, and is designed to encourage support for conservation through tourism, giving people an up-close-and-personal look at nature while bringing issues such as declining biodiversity and climate change to their attention.

The trip, which began in Svalbard, Norway, and toured the Arctic Ocean, was one of two expeditions the program will lead this year, with the second trip planning to leave next month for a 20-day tour of Antarctica. "Bringing people to these pristine, exciting destinations makes them really think about the big questions of our global life and leads to people caring more," Prokosch told OurAmazingPlanet.

Continued on Next Page

The Antarctica voyage will begin near the Falkland Islands and the boat will sail out to the Antarctic Peninsula. Tourists will see enormous ice masses calving into the ocean, flocks of penguins, seals, albatross and whales. Seeing wildlife in Antarctica is especially thrilling, Prokosch said, because the species are extremely tame. "They don't have enemies, so you can be very close to them," he said.

Environmental education

Because these trips are designed to promote conservation, there is a large educational component to the excursion. Tourists help take mammal and bird observations and counts, which are then provided to polar institutions. They also hear lectures and presentations by scientists while on the boat. Tourists see firsthand the ecosystems and wildlife they learn about, as well as see the effects of climate change on the retreating glaciers and melting ice packs.

"People can both study the pack ice situation, and see the creatures that live there," Prokosch said. "People get a very concrete feeling that climate change is happening, and that in the Arctic it is happening faster than in other areas."

Trips are also limited to about 100 people, setting them apart from the luxury cruise liners that carry thousands of people, Prokosch added.

An idea forms

The idea for the trips came about three years ago, when GRID-Adrenal was trying to figure out how to get financial support for conservation. Worldwide spending on tourism is around \$10 trillion, and tourists in general are interested in nature and protected areas - about 50 percent of tourists visiting a foreign country make use of national parks, Prokosch said.

When the project was first conceived, it sought solely to raise money for conservation, but has since expanded its aim to gain political and educational support. Prokosch said bringing political figures such as Hillary Clinton and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Arctic is helping to put the issue of climate change in the global spotlight.

Also, on the last Arctic trip, Prokosch said about 25 percent of the tourists committed to contributing to the Linking Tourism and Conservation project in the future. Additionally, they all signed a letter to the president of Tanzania encouraging him not to build a proposed road through the heart of the Serengeti, which Prokosch and other conservationists fear will destroy that ecosystem. "It's these kinds of little actions that show that people, particularly while in these polar regions, can be made aware of biodiversity," Prokosch said. □

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3 Calif. beaches closed after deadly shark attack

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — A string of beaches on California's Central Coast were shut down Saturday and there was no word on when they would reopen after a deadly attack on a bodyboarder from what some scientists said was probably a great white shark, authorities said.

The three beaches north of Santa Barbara — including Surf Beach where the attack took place — would be closed at least through the weekend and officials on Monday would decide when to reopen them, said Jeremy Eggers, spokesman for Vandenberg Air Force Base, which owns the beach property.

Eggers said he expected base officials would reopen the beaches Monday, but there was too much uncertainty and confusion surrounding the attack to say for sure.

"There's a lot of fog and friction in these kinds of situations," said Eggers. He said his bosses determined the shutdown "was the right thing to do as a safety precaution." Lucas Ransom, a 19-year-old student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was bodyboarding with friend Matthew Garcia off Surf Beach some 130 miles northwest of Los Angeles on Friday when the shark pulled



Airmen 1st class Daniel Clark, left, and Staff Sgt. Keri Embry, post a sign warning surfers of a recent shark attack Friday, Oct. 22, 2010, at Vandenburg Air Force Base, Calif. Lucas Ransom, 19, was boogie-boarding in the surf line about 100 yards off of Surf Beach with a friend when a shark suddenly pulled him under the water shortly before 9 a.m., according to a statement from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. Surf Beach, 130 miles northwest of Los Angeles, is on the property of Vandenberg Air Force Base but is open to the public.

him under the water. He resurfaced with his leg nearly severed amid what Garcia told The Associated Press was a wave of pure red.

Garcia said his friend already appeared dead.

Ransom had a severe wound to his left leg and died a short time later at Surf Beach, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department said in a statement.

Federal and state Fish and

Game officials were working to identify the type of shark that attacked Ransom. A shark expert told the Los Angeles Times, based on its behavior and Ransom's injury, it most likely was a great white.

"It takes a shark of massive size and jaw to inflict that kind of injury," Andrew Nosal of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography told the newspaper Saturday.

Authorities have issued several

(AP Photo/Spencer Weiner)

warnings this year after great white shark sightings up and down the California coast.

There have been nearly 100 shark attacks in California since the 1920s, including a dozen that were fatal, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. But attacks have remained relatively rare even as the population of swimmers, divers and surfers sharing the waters has soared. □

Want to improve US national security? Cut the defense budget

Lawrence Korb

Laura Conley

Washington — Speaking last week at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast with journalists, Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, remarked that he hoped to avoid "massive cuts" in defense, which "would be dangerous now, given the national security requirements that we have." Yet cutting the baseline defense budget, which is now even higher than it was at the height of the Reagan buildup, may ironically be one of the best tools we have to meet our national security needs.

Adm. Mullen's remark fails to acknowledge a central truth about national security: No country can buy perfect security no matter how much it spends, and any attempt to do so will eventually reach the point of severely diminishing returns.

The United States is now in its thirteenth straight year of uninterrupted growth in the defense budget, an unprecedented rise in spending that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has rightly termed a "gusher." As the United States winds down its mission in Iraq and begins to plan for the first withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan next summer, it is long past time to reexamine whether the level and distribution of US defense spending actually enhances our national security capabilities. Misuse of taxpayer dollars This type of inquiry will quickly reveal a fundamental disconnect between our defense spending and our strategic goals, particularly in the area of major defense acquisition projects. □

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Presidente boliviano visita Irán en busca de ayuda económica

LA PAZ (Reuters) - El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, visitará Irán el lunes y martes para negociar nuevos acuerdos de cooperación económica con su aliado, el también "anti imperialista" mandatario Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, informó el domingo en Gobierno de La Paz. El mandatario indígena boliviano estará en Teherán menos de una semana después de que lo hiciera su par venezolano, Hugo Chávez, otro líder izquierdista que estrecha vínculos con Ahmadinejad en desafío abierto a la política internacional estadounidense. "Es una visita que estaba programada con mucha anticipación, en la que los presidentes Morales y Ahmadinejad consolidarán los acuerdos de cooperación y discutirán nuevas vías de acercamiento", dijo a Reuters el portavoz presidencial boliviano, Iván Canelas.

Morales partió de La Paz



El presidente de Bolivia, Evo Morales, visitará Irán el lunes y martes para negociar nuevos acuerdos de cooperación económica con su aliado, el también 'anti imperialista' mandatario Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, informó el domingo en Gobierno de La Paz. REUTERS/Gary Granja

la noche del sábado para su segunda visita oficial a la república islámica, gobernada con mano dura por Ahmadinejad, quien también estuvo dos veces en La Paz en los tres últimos años.

Según anuncios oficiales previos, Teherán ha financiado y otorgado tecnología para plantas lecheras y hospitales en Bolivia en el marco de un programa de cooperación que podría llegar a los 1.000 millones de dólares.

Actualmente está en negociación un crédito iraní de 200 millones de euros, que Bolivia destinaría a emprendimientos industriales. Morales "está yendo a firmar acuerdos, a buscar recursos, a buscar tecnología, financiamiento de fábricas para nuestro país", dijo el sábado el vicepresidente Alvaro García en un primer sorpresivo anuncio del viaje presidencial, según reportó la agencia estatal de noticias ABI. □




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ARTIST OF THE MONTH Diana De Prez



Diana De Prez began performing at dueling piano bars in the early 1990s. She says, "The concept just blew me away. It was so spontaneous, and so much about the audience, I knew it was something I would be good at and like to do." She spent four years at Lil' Ditty's at Mall of America in Minnesota. And she's most recently been performing at some of the hottest dueling piano bars in the USA. Says Daina, "I've managed to rack up a lot of dueling piano miles."

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